THE ACADEMY.

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The Works of Thomas Middleton. Edited by A. H. Bullen. In 8 vols. Vols. I.-IV. (Nimmo.)

I MUST join with a writer in the *Saturday Review* in urging on Mr. Bullen's attention a slight defect in an otherwise excellent and opportune edition of Middleton. Mr. Dyce did much to make this brilliant dramatist easily intelligible to the modern reader, and Mr. Bullen has here supplemented his labours with painstaking and judgment. But one thing is wanting which Mr. Bullen might have supplied—there might have been an argument prefixed to each play, or even a table of the main action of the successive scenes. Even such a table is not too much to ask for from an able editor. It would be a help not merely to the irresponsible indolent reader or casual dipper into Elizabethan plays. For him it may be said to be, not a luxury, but a necessity, if he is to pick and choose within a limited time, reading only where there is some fair prospect of entertainment. Plays at the best are but dreary reading, especially if they are good as plays, unless the reader is so familiar with the stage or so accustomed to imagine tone and gesture along with words that the characters stand before him as he reads. To get much really dramatic enjoyment out of printed plays requires a special education; and Middleton's plays, being eminently acting plays, with a development suited to the stage and not to the study, are eminently difficult to read. But, with a plan of the scenes to guide him, the general reader might be tempted to make the requisite effort to get full enjoyment of a scene here and there.

It is not, however, mainly for the general reader that a table of the scenes would be an advantage. Few general readers care to visit often the delightful but mazy land of Elizabethan drama; the lovers of these plays are mostly special readers. It is in their interest that we press for this convenience. The action of comedies of intrigue and practical jest, such as most of the plays in these four volumes, is nearly always intricate, even when there is a simple main plot, as in "The Old Law," or "The Phœnix," or "Your Five Gallants." It is not easy to remember all the incidents in their order, especially if we happen to know a good many plays of the same family. We may remember that a scene struck us as particularly good, and yet not be able to open at the right place when we wish to read it again. In such a case a table would save a great deal of time. Besides, if we wish to compare two dramatists as "plotters," to use the Elizabethan term, that is, to compare them in one of the main points of their craft and best tests of their ingenuity, we must draw out for ourselves a scheme of the action, either mentally or in writing. Of the intricacy of some of Middleton's plays we have a striking illustration in the fact that two such specialists as Mr. Bullen and Prof. Ward are at variance concerning a cardinal incident in the action of "Blurt, Master Constable," the dramatist's first conspicuous success. Was Fontinelle unfaithful to Violetta, or did he only pretend to be? We take it that Mr. Bullen's main motive for defending the constancy of the gay Frenchman was that Mr. Ward had stigmatised the plot as "vile." We should sympathise with Mr. Bullen as against Mr. Ward on this point. The plot is not vile, judged by the Elizabethan standard. It is not viler than scores of other plots that have not been so stigmatised. It is simply an example of Middleton's realism, and he would probably have defended it as Fielding defended similar—but worse—realism in the case of *Tom Jones*. Fontinelle attempts to justify himself on the lines of Lovelace's "Paradox"—a sprightly defence of inconstancy which may have been suggested by this passage in Middleton's play. It is quite consistent with this defence—it is, indeed, a part of it—that he should make the interjection in praise of Violetta, upon which, partly, Mr. Bullen relies as proving that Fontinelle's heart did not veer even for a moment from his first mistress. That Fontinelle was for a moment overcome by Imperia's beauty is plainly the dramatist's intention; otherwise, there would be no point in Fontinelle's remorseful blushing, and half the point of Violetta's cleverness in outwitting the base designs of her other suitor would be lost. A table of the scenes would make clear any obscurity there is in the plot. The short, but compact, second scene of the third act shows how the situation in the fifth act came about, though something is left to the imagination. The truth is, that in a bustling comedy like this, with lively banquetting, masquerading, and practical joking to occupy the audience, Middleton would have shown less stage-craft than he proved himself to be master of if he had expressed every turn in the action. It was not a defect that he should send the audience home to wonder how Frisco got out of the dungeon and back for the tricks of the fifth act, or why Fontinelle was rash enough to keep his promise, on his word of honour, to go to Imperia, or to obey his impulse to thank her, or why Hippolito and Camillo taunted Violetta too soon. He took good care that they should not have time to raise such questions while they were in the theatre. He made sure that his scenes should hold the audience. There is no apparent necessity, as Mr. Bullen argues, for the two lovers to find a shelter in Imperia's house; but it was necessary for the dramatist to get all his characters there in the fifth act, and he managed it very cleverly. The rapid brevity with which he indicates the steps is an example of that careless, imperious, force which stood him in good stead in weightier matters of the drama.

It is characteristic of Middleton that he never stuck at improbabilities of behaviour on the part of his personages when the unlikely conduct was necessary to a good situation. He knew human nature, probably, as well as most of his compeers; but "the base fellow," as Jonson called him, would not always take the trouble to write up to his lights. Provided he could run the stream of action through a succession of effective stage scenes, he was not scrupulously particular about fidelity to men as they are. It is this that renders it so difficult to make a conjecture of the slightest value concerning Middleton's full share in the plays that he wrote in conjunction with W. Rowley. Such apportionments are generally made with far too much confidence. Unless the diction is markedly characteristic, it is but very uncertain guess-work. Anybody that has ever tried to guess the authorship of unsigned articles in a periodical, even when he has the advantage of personal knowledge of the contributors, of their tricks of phrase, their turn of thought, their favourite subjects, must know how easy it is to be deceived in such matters. The critic who prides himself on his acuteness should put it to this test. If he detects with infallible acumen all the contributions of his most intimate friend throughout his own summer holiday, he may be allowed to go to work on the Elizabethan dramatists without hesitation. Middleton's verse is so much superior to Rowley's, his power of expression so much more masterly, that there are many scenes in any play in which the two co-operated that may be assigned without question to the greater dramatist. The great scenes in the "Changeling," for example, must have been written by the author of "The Mayor of Queenborough." There is a distinctive power in them, both of conception and of phrase, that goes beyond any possibility of imitation. So in "A Fair Quarrel" the Hamlet-like soliloquies of Captain Agar, and the dialogue between Agar and his mother, are marked as Middleton's by the diction alone. But when it comes to saying that Rowley can get credit or discredit only for the comic scenes in these plays, it is another matter. Why should poor Rowley be restricted to this poor share of the honour? Mr. Bullen says that the comic part of "A Fair Quarrel" is not Middleton's, because Middleton's humour was "much quieter." "Quiet" is not exactly the adjective that I should apply to the fourth act of "Blurt," or to the various practical jests of Glister, the physician, in "The Family of Love." The common theory, which assigns only comic business to Rowley, the collabourer-in-general of James's reign, does but scant justice to that industrious playwright. It may be all that he deserves; but another theory is at least equally plausible, namely, that he, as an actor, was often struck with happy thoughts of effective situations, good ideas for plots, and called in the assistance of abler pens to help him in working them out. For example, take the most striking and memorable incident in "A Fair Quarrel"—Capt. Agar's refusal to fight in defence of his mother's honour, because it suddenly occurs to him, without any other ground for suspicion than the general frailty of womankind, that the impeachment may be true. That this should happen is fantastically improbable, and absurdly degrading to a serious personage, but it leads to some capital acting situations, and these are managed with such power as to hide the inherent improbability and absurdity. Now it might be

argued that an actor, familiar to weariness with ordinary effects, but not capable of striking out extraordinary effects within the probable or normal range of human passion, would catch at the unusual, the eccentric, the abnormal, when it offered a chance of an exciting and impressive scene. That this and some of the other clever situations in "A Fair Quarrel"—each act, it may be remarked, has some ingenious novelty through which the plot is forced—were all conceived by Rowley before he called in Middleton, is at least as probable as that Middleton called in Rowley to help him with the "roaring" scenes, more particulary seeing that Middleton co-operated with Dekker in another "roaring" play. May it not have been Middleton that suggested to Rowley that the risky solemnity of Capt. Agar must be balanced by the humours of Chough? There is really no predominant likelihood, much less certainty, one way or the other, the speculation being so much complicated by the fact that Middleton proved himself as willing to subordinate consistency of character to stage effect, and as clever in devising laughable situations, as the most unconscionable of ideal actor-playwrights. On the whole one is inclined to give Rowley the credit of the main idea, though not of the execution, because in "A Cure for a Cuckold," in which he co-operated with Webster, and in which the style is unmistakeably Webster's, there is, both in the serious and in the comic portions, a similar fantastic but theatrically profitable eccentricity of motive.

Four more volumes are wanted to complete this edition of Middleton. The issue is doubly justified: first, by the interest and scarcity of the plays, which would have warranted a mere reprint of Dyce, and, second, by the substantial additions Mr. Bullen has made to Dyce's elucidation of the text. We hope he will take in good part the suggestion about a prefatory abstract to each play. One more illustration of its use may be taken from what is in several ways the most interesting play in the present issue, the "Mayor of Queenborough." The leading characters are repulsive, and the action is of bewildering rapidity, but the best scenes in it rank with Middleton's best work. There is nothing more terrifically grand, more tragically horrible, in the whole range of the Elizabethan drama, than the last scene between Vortiger, Horsus, and Rowena. It is a really magnificent conception, worked out with unfaltering power, and shows what Middleton, with all his easy dexterity and deep reserve of confident strength, was capable of when he had a great situation to call forth the full measure of his abilities. But the changes of scene are so frequent, there is such an antiquated air about the subject, such a want of greatness in the general design and the motives of the characters, that few readers seem to have had patience to persevere to the end. In such a case a plan of the scenes would be invaluable, and would make clear besides that, in spite of the straggling appearance of the play, it has really a very even development to the catastrophe, and this, too, although a good deal was evidently added on to Middleton's original after the Restoration, and possibly he had himself an earlier version of the story to reconstruct.

W. Minto.

TRAVEL AND TOIL IN WESTERN AMERICA.

To Canada with Emigrants. By J. Ewing Ritchie. (Fisher Unwin.)

A Trip to Prairie Land. By Francis Jameson Rowbotham. (Sampson Low.)

Unless for the fact that Mr. Ritchie crossed the Atlantic in the same steamer with some emigrants—a fact which is not at all singular—we do not quite see how he justifies the title of his pretty little book. He saw the usual Canadian sights, and took the ordinary run along the Pacific railroad so far as it extended eighteen months ago, and generally conducted himself very like any other tourist without the pretence of a "mission." Indeed, we have still to ascertain what Mr. Ritchie's "mission" was. He went out, we are told, "to see the nakedness or the reverse of the land." But we should have imagined from the rather crude little "puffs" which are every now and again lugged into the text, that the object of his journey was to recommend somebody's patent inks, or some other person's patent medicine, or a third individual's hotel, or hop bitters, or books, or papers, or magazines, or mortgage company, or restaurant. This is a detestable practice, which we regret to see growing among the smaller fry of travellers since poor Burnaby set the example. Mr. Ritchie may possibly be only guilty of a piece of execrable taste, but as many of the articles so heralded are also by a peculiar coincidence noticed in the advertising pages at the close of the volume, we are precluded from believing that the clumsy notices in the text are altogether disinterested. Otherwise the book is not badly written, if only the writer had anything to write about. Without having a standard by which to compare one colony with another, it is useless praising or abusing Manitoba or Ontario. Mr. Ritchie has not, it appears, visited any other wild region. It is of no earthly interest to the world to learn that he was entertained to tea by some one who had heard of his name before, or that when he replied for the press in the smoking room of the *Sarnia* (Mr. Ritchie it seems is "connected" with a religious weekly in which these papers appeared) he received quite an ovation. Nor is it at all worthy of the immortality of print that the author had turtle soup with a Toronto alderman (after the emigrants had been sent about their business), while such silly jocularity as "I suppose most of us were babies once—there is every reason to believe that I was," is apt to be called by another name. On the other hand, those of us who search Mr. Ritchie's pages for information may be startled to learn that Canada is larger than the United States—the Polar Basin and the Palaeocrystic Sea being included—that by this time there must be a million of people settled in the North-West, that the French Canadians are vainly dreaming of a restoration of French rule, or that there is nothing to interest an Englishman in Quebec. We hear also of the Accadians of Nova Scotia sympathising with the French of Lower Canada, of Riel being at once a French Canadian and a Half-breed, and of a certain Dr. Wilson who was a "Fellow of the University of Oxford." A Western traveller will learn with amazement that "humour is a thing unknown in Canada and the North-West." He may puzzle over a Sioux chief called "Black Bull" and only guess that our old friend "Sitting Bull" is the dignitary referred to, and might fail to make himself understood in Manitoba if he talked, as Mr. Ritchie does, of "a blorrard" (p. 165), and it is perfectly certain that whatever the writer (p. 252) saw in the Atlantic, it was not a "tortoise." Nor can I recall any "ancient road to British Columbia" (p. 203), though Mr. Ritchie talks about "some remains" of it. These errors of the pen and of good taste aside, the book is written in an easy, if occasionally flippant style, and is sometimes amusing if only for the self-complacency of the author.

Now and then he tells some plain truths; for example, when he warns the English mechanic that he must not expect a very cordial reception from his Canadian brethren, that immigration is far from popular with the townsmen, and that in Montreal, Toronto, and Ottawa there is "a pauper class as badly off as any of the denizens of the London slums." It is also well in view of the frothy talk which we occasionally hear from Canadian politicians, who "orate" in one key at the Empire Club and in quite another fashion nearer home, to be assured that when the much-discussed question of Canadian independence is

> "settled you may be sure that sentiment will have little to do with it. On this side of the Atlantic, at any rate, that sort of thing goes a very little way when the almighty dollar is at stake."

On most other questions Mr. Ritchie is equally sensible, and, with the exception of the points indicated, very fairly accurate. Altogether, though we do not quite realise why the book was ever disinterred from the pages of the religious periodical in which it was originally buried, it may serve as a useful companion for a hurried run as far as the Rocky Mountains, though, as the line is now well into British Columbia, the official guide-book will make an end of volumes such as this. However, when it comes to be reprinted, it would be well to have it revised by a judicious friend, with a view to eliminate the "puffs" of hotel-keepers and quack medicines, tourist agents and restaurateurs, superior inks and invigorating tonics. Then, aided by the well-selected cuts—which, however, are for the most part very old friends—the book may be read with some satisfaction, although an index has not been supplied for the convenience of those who may not care to avail themselves of the whole of Mr. Ritchie's "actual experiences"—albeit an "experience" which is not "actual" must be somewhat peculiar.

Mr. Rowbotham—who also sins *in re indicis*—is a tourist of a different and a better type. He and some friends "actually" settled in Northern Dakota, with the intention of trying their fortunes as farmers, and, after a year's experiment, appear, so far as we can make out, to have abandoned a life for which they were unfitted. As may be readily presaged, the picture he paints of men with a slender purse, and little or no experience, trying to extract a livelihood out of the Western soil, is far from flattering, though equally far from untruthful. Hundreds of young Englishmen could tell much the same story. Unfortu-

nately, however, for their countrymen who are beguiled by the lying pamphlets of land agents, railroad companies with "alternate sections" to dispose of, and even of State Governments anxious to attract capital and immigration, it is not everyone who has the courage, the ability, the opportunity, or the inclination to tell how he fared. Yet, though Mr. Rowbotham did not prosper as a rancher, he is ready to acknowledge that practical farmers, possessed of the elements of success, may do very well in Dakota. But money is quite as essential there as here, and the new arrival is certain to be closely shorn if he is too ready to become a landowner.

"We did meet," he informs us, "with a single settler who could tell us that he had found farming on a small scale pay even after several years. On the other hand, we could mention several with whom we became acquainted in the towns who had formerly taken out claims, and after sticking to them for a greater or less time—generally speaking until their capital had become exhausted—had thrown them up, or disposed of them as 'improved farms' to new comers, and sought work in the towns. If you expressed a desire to purchase a claim of this description, there were always plenty of vendors anxious to accommodate you. In fact, we found that a kind of trade was actually being carried on with respect to the taking up of claims. Several of our 'neighbours,' we learnt, were simply holding on to, and working a portion of, their land in order, when it became their own, to dispose of it to advantage to an unsuspecting emigrant as an 'improved farm.'"

In the south-western states of Canada, "a man can no more easily make a home for himself and his family without capital, and that, too, a considerable one, than he can by expending the same amount of energy, and under similar circumstances, procure for himself and family in England" (*sic*). In brief, it seems to be Mr. Rowbotham's opinion that even with depressed agriculture and the landed interest the prey of every demagogue, England is after all a better country for the farmer than any portion of America. His profits though low here are as high as there, and the toil, hardships, and rough surroundings infinitely less in England than in any portion of the much-vaunted region of which he writes. We are not prepared to offer an opposite opinion. On the contrary, we regard Mr. Rowbotham's little volume as a useful antidote to some of the deleterious stuff which knavish or ignorant or foolish people have been forcing down the throats of those only too ready to swallow their pleasant tales. Its good nature and moderation is likely to commend it to many readers; and though with no literary pretensions the book is generally well written, and full of useful information, which, if now and then coloured by the author's disappointment, is, as a rule, perfect trustworthy. Robert Brown.

Memoirs of Dora Greenwell. By William Dorling. (James Clarke.)

There is much that is interesting in this unaffected and unpretentious memoir, but one cannot help doubting for a moment whether there be any sufficing reason for its existence. Miss Greenwell's life was entirely uneventful, and her books were so spontaneous, so sincere, and so intimately personal that they left little to be learned concerning her character and individuality. Still this very fact of complete correspondence between the writer and her work contributes a strong element of interest to the memoir. Biographies of literary persons are wont, in proportion to their truthfulness, to be somewhat eiconoclastic productions. From the books of this or that writer we extract materials for an ideal portrait; and then comes some veracious biographer with his real portrait, which so discredits our lovingly-painted canvas that we have regretfully to turn it to the wall with a sigh for another lost illusion. No such disappointment is in store for readers who may turn from any of Miss Greenwell's books—*Lacordaire*, *Two Friends*, *The Patience of Hope*, or *Carmina Crucis*—to the pages of Mr. Dorling's simple record. It does not destroy any previous impression, it does not even modify it; it simply bites it in more deeply and gives it greater permanence. As a mere narrative, either of external events or of spiritual development, the memoir has little importance: its charm is the indefinable charm of those hours or days during which acquaintance with a gracious and finely-touched spirit ripens into intimacy and friendship.

Of mere facts, Mr. Dorling is more sparing than he need have been, and it seems probable that his knowledge, at first hand, of Miss Greenwell's life, was confined to the latter portion of it; for he makes, at least, one mistake which, though not important, is sufficiently glaring to give one an unpleasant impression of carelessness. The fourth chapter is headed "Golbourne," and it professes to deal with the life of Miss Greenwell and her parents "at Golbourne Rectory, her brother, Mr. Alan Greenwell, having been appointed the rector of the parish." It would perhaps be hypercritical to do more than mention the superfluous "u" in the name Golborne, as there may be some respectable authority for it, strange as it looks to a Lancashire reader; but a much more extraordinary error is made concerning a matter of simple fact. The Rev. Alan Greenwell was never rector of either Golborne or "Golbourne," or, indeed, of any parish at all: he was the incumbent, or, as we should now say, the vicar of a little district church at Haydock, about two miles distant, if my memory serves me rightly, from the parish church which Mr. Dorling assigns to him. Of course it may be said that the difference between Golborne and Haydock, or between the rectory and the very humble lodging which Mr. Greenwell chose to occupy in order to be in the midst of his flock, is not a very important one; but if a biographer of Carlyle, for example, told us that the latter part of his life was spent at Wandsworth, the fact that Wandsworth is very near to Chelsea would hardly hinder us from regarding his biography with some amount of suspicion.

A good deal might be said in the way of adverse criticism concerning Mr. Dorling's literary style, which is at times decidedly slipshod; but it is not hard to forgive such sins as these when we see that a writer is honestly enamoured, not of himself, but of his theme, and that he is simply doing his best, according to his lights, to bring his readers into sympathy with his own emotion. In the present case, this task is not a difficult one. Miss Greenwell was not a great writer, not even a brilliant writer, but she was, in many ways, an extremely interesting woman; and the reflection in her books of her own winning personality is so clear and so undistorted that any reader who cares for her writings at all will care for them very much, with that peculiar kind of affection which we give only to literary work that seems to bring us face to face with some congenial human spirit. There are two sayings quoted in this volume, one from Miss Greenwell herself, and another from her friend, Miss Ingelow, which hint at that combination of completeness and incompleteness in her work which has much to do with its peculiar attractiveness. Miss Greenwell said of herself, "One word would alone tell my story—inadequacy"; while Miss Ingelow, on the other hand, seems to deny this inadequacy point blank when she says of Miss Greenwell's poems, which were perhaps her most characteristic utterances, "they do not fascinate but they satisfy." The sayings seem inconsistent with each other, and yet in their measure they are both true. There is in all Miss Greenwell's books a certain inadequacy: there is also a certain satisfying quality which for a time prevents the inadequacy from making itself felt. The inadequacy found its cause in a manifest lack of self-reliance and self-sufficiency. Her personal instincts and perceptions may have been convincing to herself, but she never seems to have felt that they could have the same convincing power for others unless supported by authority weightier than her own. Some of her prose writings are a perfect network of quotations, not given to eke out poverty of original thought, but simply to stamp upon the gold of her own finding some revered image and superscription. There is no evidence that she failed to rely upon herself, for herself; her vision was clear and sufficing enough for her personal needs: it was only for others—for her unknown audience—that she seemed to feel the need of some buttresses of approved strength. In her poetry, however, and in such of her prose as possesses the lyrical *abandon* of verse, she loses consciousness of an audience; speaks out simply and spontaneously her inspiring thought and emotion; and becomes, not what she called herself, "inadequate," but what Miss Ingelow calls her, "satisfying," and even fascinating as well. It is, indeed, probable that there could be found readers of Miss Greenwell's books who may be said to be fascinated rather than satisfied. She was a true mystic, though she may never have thought of herself as one; and there are people who have sufficient of the mystical bent to feel attracted by the utterances of the seers, and yet not enough of it to dare to trust themselves off the solid ground of ordinary "fact," and rely upon those intuitions which make light of commonplace "experience" because they have an experience which is all their own. This, however, is not the place for an estimate of Dora Greenwell's work as poet and spiritual thinker. She has found her audience, and those who belong to it will accord a hearty welcome to Mr. Dorling's volume. Its shortcomings are not very serious, and it has one

merit which overcomes a multitude of sins: it makes us feel that we know Dora Greenwell, the woman, as well as we know Dora Greenwell, the writer.

James Ashcroft Noble.

THE DESPATCHES OF MERCY-ARGENTEAU.

Briefe des Grafen Mercy-Argenteau k.k. Bevollmächtigen Ministers in den Oesterreichischen Niederlanden an den k.k. Ausserordentlichen Gesandten zu London Grafen Louis Starhemberg (vom 26 December 1791 bis 15 August 1794). Originaldocumente aus dem schriftlichen Nachlasse des Letzteren gesammelt und geordnet nebst Erläuterungen von dessen Enkel A. Graf Thürheim. (Innsbruck: Wagner.)

The letters and despatches contained in this volume are well worth perusal by those interested in the diplomatic history of the years to which they relate. The editor, Count Thürheim, has written a short but useful introduction, giving an account of the lives of both ambassadors. The writer of the documents, Mercy-Argenteau, after filling for twenty-four years the post of ambassador at Paris, was in 1790 removed to the Austrian Netherlands, where, during the absence of Albert, Duke of Sachsen Teschen, he practically occupied the place of governor-general, and after the breaking out of the war between France and Austria was constantly at the head-quarters of the army, taking counsel with the generals, and reporting the course of military as well as diplomatic undertakings. In 1792, Starhemberg, the recipient of the documents, was appointed ambassador at the Hague, and in the spring of 1793 received the more important post of ambassador at the English Court. Frequent allusions are made to the operations of the allied armies; but the main interest of the correspondence lies in the clearness with which it reveals Mercy's opinions on the most important questions of the time. Although the story told is not new, it comes with freshness from the hand of one of the principal actors in the events which he describes, and gives a peep behind the scenes, which largely increases our power of realising the feelings with which the evacuation of the Austrian Netherlands was regarded by the servants of the Emperor. Moreover, whether he is writing official letters, or whether he is stating his private opinions, Mercy's words are of the greater interest, because the policy which he advocated was in essentials the policy of Thugut, who in 1793 became the Emperor's chief adviser in foreign affairs; and, in fact, the interest of the book much increases after Thugut's accession to power, when the despatches, evidently inspired from Vienna, become more frequent, and their contents of greater importance.

A man turned seventy, and grown grey in the service of princes, could have no sympathy with revolutionists who took first the life of the king at whose court he had resided for so many years, and then also that of the queen who, when she came almost a child to Versailles, had been placed by her mother under his special charge. Mercy regards the Revolution something in the light of a cancer, eating its way into the healthy life of Europe, which must be cut out pitilessly by sharp remedies unless the whole of Europe is to suffer. Shortly before the execution of the king, with the hope in his heart that England and Holland would shortly be drawn into the struggle, he thus expounds to Starhemberg the policy which from his point of view it would be expedient for the powers to adopt:

"Je conclus que ce ne seront ni une ni plusieurs batailles gagnées qui réduiront une nation, laquelle ne peut être domptée qu'autant que l'on en exterminera une grande portion de la partie active et la presque totalité de la partie dirigente. Faire main basse sur les clubs, désarmer le peuple, détruire cette superbe capitale, foyer de tous les crimes, de toutes les horreurs, produire la famine et la misère, voilà les déplorables données de l'enterprise à remplir, vous allez me juger digne d'entrer au conseil des Nérons, des Caligulas: c'est bien en gemissant que je prononce leurs hideuses maximes, que n'est-il possible de les écarter, mais leur usage devient indispensable à la gravité, à la nature du mal, il ne sera extirpé par aucune autre voie; si on la néglige l'Europe est perdue, et vous sentez parfaitement que le second point (celui de notre intérêt particulier) se trouvera alors enveloppé dans l'abime commun" (p. 37.)

Mercy's personal attachment to the unfortunate king and queen, as well as the imminent danger which threatened Belgium, no doubt largely contributed to his intense desire for the suppression of the Revolution in blood. He believed that if the French arms were successful, the fall of other monarchies must ensue, and he therefore regarded the defence of Belgium as a European as well as an Austrian interest. He regarded it also as a special English interest; and this made him eager to obtain an alliance with England, and caused him to believe it possible by her support very largely to extend the dominions of the Emperor. Mercy, indeed, regarded the retention of Belgium by Austria as so important to England that the mere threat of abandoning the country would obtain for the Emperor very important concessions. In a letter to Starhemberg, of January 4, 1793, this policy is propounded with out disguise:

"Certes il vaudroit mieux renoncer tout à fait à la Belgique, que de s'y voir dans une tutelle aussi gérante que l'est celle où on nous a tenus jusqu'à présent, mais il s'agit d'une grande et utile possession, de laquelle au fond il est bien difficile de se détacher, néanmoins la politique exige, ce me semble, d'en faire le semblant, et de tâcher par là de rendre ses conditions meilleures."

Two aims appear in view—the one to bring the Netherlands more completely under the Emperor's control, the other to extend the frontier at the expense of France. If these results were attainable, Mercy was ready enough that the plan for exchanging Belgium for Bavaria should fall into abeyance, though meanwhile he was not ready that the Emperor should bind himself to its renunciation. In the end the mark was overshot. So much was sought for Austria, while so little disposition was shown to make concessions demanded in the special interests of England and Holland, that the English Cabinet became afraid of being made the tool for the accomplishment of unknown plans for the extension of the Emperor's possessions and influence; while the incessant harping on the Emperor's intention to abandon Belgium unless England supplied efficient support to the Austrian army, combined with military disaster, led finally to the belief in the minds of English generals and diplomatists that the Austrians were playing false, and that their army retreated in 1794 because there was no real intention of holding the country longer. On May 31, 1793, Mercy wrote to Starhemberg instructing him to impress upon the English cabinet the advantages which would accrue to England, Holland, and Europe if the frontier traced in the following lines was secured for the Austrian Netherlands:

"Il conviendroit que nos possessions s'étendissent jusqu'à la Somme; que des sources de cette rivière notre frontière se portât sur une ligne directe vers Sedan ou Mezières: le cours de la Meuse deviendroit notre limite, qui se lieroit avec les parties de territoire suffisants à couvrir l'Allemagne, c'est à dire, les Evêchés, avec partie de la Lorraine et de l'Alsace" (p. 86).

This is the same frontier as that to which, as Von Sybel has shown, Thugut at the end of the year was seeking to obtain the support of Russia (*Geschichte der Revolutionszeit*, iii. 42). If the other side of this correspondence were in print it would be interesting to know how far Starhemberg ventured to lay these large demands before the English cabinet. If Pitt and his colleagues were ready to concede the line of the Somme, they intended to retain Dunkirk for England, to which Thugut and Mercy were both strongly opposed; while it is more than questionable whether they were prepared to allow the incorporation of Alsace and Lorraine with the Austrian Netherlands. Another point of contention stands out in Mercy's letters in strong relief—the indemnity to be received by the United Netherlands. At Vienna, a money payment to be wrung from France was regarded as a sufficient compensation. Probably enough, jealousy of the support given by England to the claim made by the states for a stronger frontier influenced Mercy's judgment on the conduct of their contingent. "Cette partie de l'armée coalisée," he contemptuously writes in September 1793, "ne peuvent pas de soutenir, elle est toujours en retraite." Reversely his letters are full of praises of the gallantry of the English troops and of their commanding officers, which, let us hope, spite of the bias of the writer, were not wholly unmerited.

Intense hatred, if it sometimes blinds, sometimes also gives keenness of vision, at least on special issues. Mercy was more alive than most of his contemporaries to the difficulty of overcoming the Revolution, and continued from first to last to urge the necessity of immediate action as well as the wisdom of lending aid to insurgents within France. He foresaw also that the Prussians, whatever the sum paid for their co-operation, would merely defend the empire, and that the English ministers would be duped if they hoped to get more out of the treaty negotiated by Malmesbury. In opposition to Von Sybel's view that Thugut did not care to defend Belgium, because he desired to acquire a portion of Poland for Austria, Mercy's despatches tend to show that the

retreat of the Austrians was in reality the result of the military situation, and of the belief that no effectual support would be obtained, either from Prussia or England—in other words, that the English only cared to defend Holland, and that the Prussians only cared to defend the Rhine; and that, therefore, defeat was inevitable. On June 24, 1794, Mercy wrote as follows:

"M. de Thugut est partie ce matin pour Vienne, il a des doutes que je partage sur les vraies intentions d'Angleterre; ses agents au dehors ont une marche si extraordinaire, que l'on n'y comprend rien, aucun ne s'explique. ... Il me semble que l'on nous soupçonne à Londres d'un projet fixé, d'abandonner les Pays-bas, et il seroit peut-être bon de s'en expliquer nettement, avec franchise et vérité. Dans le fait, nous ne voulons point abandonner la Belgique, si on nous procure des moyens efficaces pour la défendre, pour la conserver, et si nous voyons la possibilité de nous y maintenir, sans que cette possession entraîne la ruine de la monarchie."

Later, on July 12, he writes:

"Toute la sollicitude d'Angleterre est visiblement tournée vers la conservation de la Hollande; ce point obtenu, on paroît peu en peine de ce qui arrivera de nous; d'après ce système on voudra peut-être attirer toutes nos forces dans le Brabant hollandois, nous y serions coupés de notre armée du Rhin, absolûment dans la dépendance des deux puissances maritimes et uniquement voués à leurs convenances, au plus grand détriment des nôtres, ce à [*sic*] quoi certainement nous ne nous prêterons jamais."

From these as well as other passages it is evident that Mercy at least did not entertain the idea that events in Poland necessitated the withdrawal of the Emperor's army from the Austrian Netherlands. His argument throughout is that the army must retreat, because the military situation is bad, and the Emperor can place no trust in his allies.

B. M. Gardiner.

NEW NOVELS.

A Family Affair. By Hugh Conway. (Macmillan.)

The Verge of Night. By Percy Greg. (Hurst & Blackett.)

Camilla's Girlhood. By Linda Villari. (Fisher Unwin.)

An Ill-regulated Mind. By Katharine Wylde. (Blackwood.)

Betrayed. By Dora Russell. (White.)

A Family Affair may be said to give probably as good an opportunity of estimating its late author's real capabilities in novel-writing as could have been given had he lived. There is no mark either of hurry or of incompleteness about it, the story develops itself at ease and leisure within the compass of the usual three volumes, and the dialogue and writing generally appear to have been produced with all due care. The result will not be disrespectfully spoken of by any competent critic. As a specimen of the ordinary circulating library novel of the better class *A Family Affair* deserves praise and is certain to "give satisfaction." There is some originality and, at any rate for a time, not a little amusement in the sketches of the household of the Talberts. These are a pair of brothers in the most comfortable circumstances, and enjoying all possible advantages of education and social repute, who have gradually given themselves up to the minor cares of housekeeping after a fashion which would have exposed them in ruder days to the penalty of having a dish-clout pinned to their tails. While their beautiful niece, Beatrice Clauson, who has quarrelled with her father and stepmother, is staying with them, a mysterious child arrives, directed to "Mr. Talbert," by rail, and having been deserted in the carriage by its attendant. Probably the experienced novel reader has not much difficulty in guessing to whom this child really belongs, and what is the nature of the plot which he will have before him—at least after a visit of the child's nurse to Portland Prison. But, on the whole, the author keeps down the veil with ingenuity and success. That a distinguished Oxford coach should arrive and fall in love with Beatrice is a circumstance so generally necessary that the mentioning of it cannot be considered to infringe the rule of not unduly laying bare plots. The *dénouement* is brought about by the half savage devotion of the above-mentioned nurse, a Calvinist of the extremest type, and only here does Hugh Conway's predilection for melodrama break out. The whole book is exceedingly readable, the chief faults of it being, in the first place, that the effeminacy of the Talberts is too constantly dwelt on, so that its manifestations produce nearly the irritating effect of Carker's smile in *Dombey* and Pancks's steam engine performances in *Little Dorrit*; in the second, that the author is prone to the mannerism (rather irritating in the same way) of finishing up chapters or paragraphs with a kind of *pointe*, formulating generally something which he has already said particularly. These are not great faults. On the other hand, it is impossible to call *A Family Affair* a novel of the first class, or to think that the writer of it could ever have produced a novel of the first class. Nothing in its situations, its character drawing, or its style makes any distinct mark on the memory. We cannot conceive ourselves taking it up of free will and deliberate preference a second time. No part of it is, properly speaking, literature, but only very fair circulating library pastime. Its merits, as well as its defects, make it evident that much as everyone must regret a premature death, Mr. Fargus had nothing better to give the world than he gave it, and that in all probability he has escaped the most mortifying of all literary fates—the gradual subsidence from wide popularity and great expectations to a merely tolerated performance of respectable journey work.

Mr. Percy Greg's novels *sibi constant*; and even if the personages of several of his former books, both in fiction and essay, did not reappear in *The Verge of Night*, it would have something of the character of a sequel. Except in two or three passages (describing a fight with an Irish assassin, a dynamite explosion, and so forth) the author has not attempted any of the more stirring business for which he showed so considerable an aptitude in *Errant* and *Sanguelac*. The interest is on the one side political, on the other it centres in the character and experiences of a man of great ability but nervous temperament (hence the title), which temperament is tried deliberately by the machinations of an unnatural father and unconsciously by the temper and jealousy of a devoted but rather unreasonable wife. Mr. Greg has been by no means unhappy in depicting this last character—the generous, affectionate, and intelligent, but exacting Meta Erne. Her experiences and those of her husband may be thought to show that there are inconveniences (as well as the conveniences which Lord Iddesleigh extolled the other day) in possessing a wife who is an excellent private secretary. We have said that many, if not most, of Mr. Greg's old characters appear: Ivy Glynne and her husband, the cynical but redoubted journalist Lestrange, the Clevelands (husband and wife), and others. One thing which speaks very well for the book is that the second volume is, as it should be, much the most interesting. But the very evenness of Mr. Greg's work, and the strong belief which he has in his own notions, ensure the reappearance of defects as well as merits. There is a little too much politics, for even the most ardent of politicians must confess that a little of this goes a long way in novels. And the dialogue, though by no means deserving the word stiff, is somewhat apt to display the fault commonly called "talking book."

The beginning and end of Madame Villari's book deal with Italian scenes; but the great bulk of it is English, while the heroine, Camilla Ronati, despite her Italian name and descent, is to all intents and purposes an English girl. The interest of the book—which is an advance on Madame Villari's former work in fiction—is almost entirely domestic, and lies in the relations of Camilla (who is half an orphan when the story opens, and wholly one before it has gone very far) with the family of one of her guardians, the Kynastons, with the wife of the other, Mrs. Groves (this vulgar and tyrannical personage is perhaps the least successful in the book, being decidedly conventional), and with a certain Italian-English adventuress calling herself Mrs. Ives. A sufficient second plot is provided by the loves of Mabel Kynaston and an agreeable but at first rather idle artist. Madame Villari succeeds with a good deal of skill in getting into her pages pictures of very different scenes and kinds of life, all firmly though quietly painted, and all thoroughly lifelike. Perhaps the best part of all is the Kynaston household, which is drawn somewhat in Miss Yonge's fashion, but with less mannerism and more general knowledge of the world. To have introduced a musical enthusiast and maestro who is not a bore is, perhaps, the fairest flower in Madame Villari's crown; unless it be that she has been equally successful in her slight touches on the almost equally dangerous subject of Italian patriotism. The book is a very good piece of work.

We cannot say quite so much of Miss Wylde's book, which, however, though it does not seem to be a first novel, is evidently the work of a novice, and contains something that may not unfairly be called promise. The hero, the well-educated and intelligent son of a bookseller who has made some money, finds when he comes of age that a young woman is growing up for him somewhere, destined for

his wife by his father and her dead mother. He is recalcitrant, but at last consents to pay her a visit of exploration. He finds her very beautiful, almost too amiable, and possessed of every virtue, and for a moment thinks himself a lucky fellow. Unfortunately there is in the house a younger girl, little more than a child, of curious history and wayward temperament, with whom Lewis Cole falls in love. The course of that love naturally does not run smooth, and that is all we need say. There are some remarkable minor improbabilities in the book, and as a whole it is ill planned. But the author seems to have a certain amount of romantic imagination and, what is more important, an idea (which she has as yet not succeeded in practically expressing) of character.

We mean no bad compliment to Miss Dora Russell when we say that she is a writer well enough suited to the scrubby little shilling books which have come in like the Solway and will, we trust, go out like its tide. She is good at villains, not bad at plots, and possessed of the faculty of what (again with no impolite intentions) we can only call hustling a story through. It is the first duty of the critic of the shilling book not to say anything about its story; and, therefore, we shall only say that *Betrayed* begins with a trial for murder and a young lady of good family knocking frantically, at twelve o'clock on a snowy night, at a house not her own, and that it ends with an abduction and a death. What can lovers of shilling books wish for more? It may, indeed, be delicately pointed out to Miss Russell that "Major Dundas better mind his own business" and "I felt if I got here I would be safe" are not, strictly speaking, English. But this is not likely to make the lovers of shilling books unhappy.

George Saintsbury.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

School Hygiene and Diseases incidental to School Life. By R. Farquharson. (Smith, Elder & Co.) Dr. Farquharson's experience as medical officer during three years at Rugby School; his varied professional practice in the children's and other hospitals; and, we may add, his knowledge of public life and public business, have enabled him to write with much moderation and good sense on a topic on which there has lately been a good deal of exaggeration on the part of other medical writers. The six chapters of this book deal respectively with school buildings, diet, work, play, the duties of the school doctor, and school diseases; and on each of these points he gives in detail many wise and practical counsels. The most valuable chapters relate to diet, play, and school diseases. On the subject of buildings, some of the plans he suggests are impracticable; for instance, he says that while in a dormitory from 800 to 1000 cubic feet of space should be allowed for every boarder, half that amount is required for every day-scholar—a counsel of perfection which, if followed, would oblige school boards and managers to provide nearly four times the school accommodation now existing in England. Some of the advice given respecting school lessons also betrays want of practical familiarity with educational work; and the teacher who looks into the book with a view to find definite guidance as to the number of hours which may be lawfully devoted to school work and home preparation by scholars of different ages and in different conditions of health, and as to the best way of adjusting various kinds of intellectual and mechanical effort, will be disappointed. With regard to meals, and the best forms of physical exercise, the book is fuller and more helpful. Some space is devoted to a candid and careful discussion on the vexed subject of "over-pressure," on which it is evident that Dr. Farquharson accepts only to small a degree the allegations of many of his professional brethren. He recommends to his readers a careful perusal of Dr. Crichton Browne's report, for the singular reason that the "style is forcible, flowing, and picturesque in the highest degree." It would have been more to the purpose if Dr. Farquharson had been able to say that the facts were trustworthy or the reasoning sound in that well-known document. But this he carefully avoids saying, since, in fact, all his own observations tend exactly in the opposite direction. "It is a matter of common notoriety," he says, "that longevity is more usually met with among those who have exercised their brains fully and regularly than under conditions of apparently typical health." At Rugby "the result of my observation was that the amount of lessons was by no means excessive." Again, "some of Dr. Browne's methods of investigation were, to say the least, open to exception, and the enquiry was conducted too rapidly and superficially and on too narrow a basis to be really authoritative." These and many similar admissions are well calculated to reassure timid parents who have been alarmed by recent controversies; and, at the same time, they tend to increase the confidence which will be generally felt in the judicial spirit, the care, fairness, and ability displayed in this book.

Quest. By Thomas Sinclair. (Trübner.) In form *Quest* is a volume of *pensées*, and in title and substance it recalls partly by similarity and partly by contrast the *Guesses at Truth* of the brothers Hare. The characteristic of such books often is that, while professedly suggestive and tentative, they are in essence very positive and dogmatic. Mr. Sinclair, for example, says in the first sentence of his preface, "The thought indicated by the title of these essays is that in speculation there may be search but no absolute finding"; and yet we have never come across a writer more apt to fall into the *ex cathedrâ* tone or to assume the authoritative air of a finder. To a certain extent this is inevitable. No man can live without a stock, howsoever small, of subjective certitudes, though he may doubt the possibility of a single objective certainty; and a hypothetical manner of putting things soon beomes irritating and wearisome. But there is a medium between this kind of thing and the setting-down of private paradoxes as if they were universal axioms. We will not say that Mr. Sinclair is nothing if not paradoxical, for this would be unfair to an occasionally vigorous and subtle thinker, but it may truly be declared of him that where his paradox is there his heart is also. Then too, like most people with this bent, he is given to the occasional talking of nonsense, and very objectionable nonsense some of it is.

"What we call prostitutes," he gravely remarks in one of his sociological *pensées*, "are not the worst, but generally the best, of the lower classes; people of fine physique (and, as Spencer says, the soul, if it get fair play, corresponds to the body), who cannot get their true match in the sphere where born, and must, by the holiest of all instincts, that of truth, seek upward by any means."

Unfortunately for Mr. Sinclair this offensive drivel, for really we can call it nothing else, comes very near the beginning of this volume; and some readers may be tempted to close the book in disgust, and to think, not quite inexcusably, that they will gain nothing by going further. This will be a mistake, for some of the writer's thoughts on life, literature, and art do really go to the heart of the matter in hand and are accordingly well worth considering. There is an often-told story of a young writer who was advised by an old critic to educate himself in writing by striking out of his own compositions anything that seemed to himself particularly fine. If Mr. Sinclair will study moderation, and strike out anything that seems to him specially original or startling, he will gain much and lose nothing by the process of excision.

The Russian Revolt. By Edmund Noble. (Longmans.) The author of this pleasantly written little work, who is evidently a citizen of the United States, has given us a faithful picture of the growth of Nihilism and of the problems presented to the historical student by the peculiar condition of contemporary Russia. Mr. Noble is, perhaps, inclined to attach too much importance to the vague and scarcely reliable records we possess of the independence and freedom enjoyed by the ancient Slavs. But, if his theory be once accepted, that Russia originally possessed every privilege of self-government, we may admit that he has treated with great skill the history of the gradual growth and organisation of autocracy. In the latter portion of his work, he shows that the despotism of the autocrat has ceased to be a vital force in the country, or rather that it is already giving signs of decomposition, and that the renascence of Russian liberty may be looked forward to, at no great distance of time. Nevertheless, Mr. Noble does not underrate the enormous difficulties which lie in the way of this renascence, and the apparent hopelessness of attempting a successful revolution. On the whole, his book is well worth reading, and will suggest to the student of political evolution many new and luminous ideas.

With the publication of the fourth volume of the *Gentleman's Magazine Library* (Eliot Stock), a volume devoted to the subject of English traditional lore and to the customs of foreign countries and people, Mr. Gomme completes the series dealing with folklore, and his next excursion will be into the realms of archaeology. Some of the contents of this volume, witness the accounts of the Devil's Jumps at Thursley, might have been classed under the latter head; but into whatever system of classification they may be admitted, their presence will be welcome. Reading the Rev. John O'Hanlon's well-written communications on Irish folklore has reminded us of Wordsworth's lovely lines in the "Excursion," where he attributes to the natural objects around the Grecian peasant the creation of his deities. Pan and the satyrs were but the embodiments of the fancies created in his mind by the waving boughs on the trees. The "Oreads sporting visibly" had their origin in an imagination touched by the "sunbeams upon distant hills." The chapter in Mr. Gomme's volume on legends and traditions groups together many curious articles on topics of perennial interest in the popular mind. They range from the "origin of Whitstable" to the "legend of Cheddar Cliffs," from "Fair Rosamond" to "St. Keyne's Well." It is one of the omissions of Mr. Gomme's notes that, in reproducing the ballad on that well, he has not informed the world that the authorship of the lines was due to the sportive fancy of Southey, a fancy never more happy than in the task of clothing in verse the traditions of the people. On the fragments of Erse poetry collected in the Highlands before 1760, Mr. Gomme may well plume himself. They are the first draughts of the "world-famous" collections of Macpherson, and they avowedly inspired Mr. T. F. Hill with the desire of obtaining the Erse poems which appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine* some twenty years later, and are now reproduced by Mr. Gomme. In the letters on foreign customs are many amusing communications

on Eastern countries. Of this volume, as of its predecessors, we may safely say that it contains much to amuse and instruct.

Mr. Skottowe's account of England under *Our Hanoverian Kings, 1714-1830* (Sampson Low) is an excellent summary of the longer histories, now almost numerous enough to form a library by themselves, of our country during that eventful period. Its distinctive feature is the admirable common-sense which is conspicuous in the treatment of the domestic and foreign questions of the past. There is no section of the work which has been expanded at the expense of another; and we doubt if there is more than one sentence—a hasty reference on p. 82 to an expression often attributed to, and often denied by, a distinguished writer of our own time—which should have been expunged by a pen of strict impartiality. The tables of events, the brief genealogies of some of the royal houses and some of the parliamentary families, such as the Grenvilles, the lists of contemporary princes and of the chief personages in political life in England, the digest showing the growth of our colonies—all these are details of unusual excellence which are too frequently omitted in more pretentious volumes. We have often recognised, while reading the works which arise to the minds of most men as describing the events of the last century, how easily such additions could have been made to their contents, and how greatly their presence would have increased the utility of these elaborate histories. Mr. Skottowe may fairly claim the merit of having compiled a handbook which is likely, for many years, to maintain its value unimpaired by future competition.

England on the Sea; or, the Story of the British Navy, its Decisive Battles and Great Commanders. By W. H. Davenport Adams. In 2 vols. (White.) Out of the abundant materials at his disposal for writing a popular history of the navy, Mr. Davenport Adams has succeeded in making a very readable book. He does not pretend to any original research, or even to give a fresh study of important epochs in maritime warfare; but he has added to the value of his work by reprinting some interesting documents, and by following closely the words of his authorities. We observe that the record practically stops with the year 1815.

Suicide: its History, Literature, Jurisprudence, Causation, and Prevention. By W. Wynn Westcott. (H. K. Lewis.) The author is deputy coroner for Central Middlesex, and has here enlarged a paper which he read before a society of medical men in London. The full title fairly enough represents the subject of the book, which is largely indebted to the more elaborate works of Legoyt and Morselli, the latter of which recently appeared in an abridged translation in the "International Scientific Series." Suicide is one of those subjects which admit of statistical treatment, but it cannot be said that the statistics lead to any fruitful results.

Messrs. William Blackwood & Sons have published, in a very handsome volume, the official *Records of the Tercentenary Festival of the University of Edinburgh*, which was celebrated in April of last year. The book contains four chapters: (1) preliminary arrangements; (2) description of the festival, together with the speeches, &c., delivered; (3) congratulatory addresses from universities, other learned bodies, and individuals, filling no less than 145 pages; and (4) miscellaneous documents and lists of names. A full index is not wanting to complete a worthy memorial of a great occasion, which has no parallel in this country.

Messrs. E. and G. Goldsmid, of Edinburgh, have now ready for issue to subscribers the first volume of their reprint of *Hakluyt*, edited by Mr. Edmund Goldsmid, and illustrated with facsimiles of maps and portraits. It is expected that the entire series will form about fourteen volumes. We observe that Messrs. Goldsmid have been unable to give a reproduction of Mollineux's famous "Map of the World on a New Plane Projection," of which a facsimile was made by the Autotype Company in 1874, but only twenty-five copies were printed. *Hakluyt* himself has never been reprinted, except in the limited edition of Woodfall and Evans in 1809-12. The present editor has taken the liberty of altering the order of the voyages, grouping together those which relate to the same part of the globe. He has also added a few notes, and a useful index.

A Short Enquiry into the Formation of Political Opinion, from the Reign of the Great Families to the Advent of Democracy. By Arthur Crump. (Longmans.) Unless we are mistaken, Mr. Crump's name is best known as a writer of treatises on financial questions. When he takes up politics, therefore, it is natural that he should adopt the quantitative method. This is represented on the cover of his new book, which is divided between red and blue according to the aggregate duration of Liberal and Conservative ministries since 1832. So again with a diagram for frontispiece, which continues the same picturesque method to the beginning of the present century. Mr. Crump's own sentiments are frankly democratic. The most interesting chapters are those which deal with the growth of the press (again from the statistical point of view), and with the comparatively modern, but now deep-rooted, Toryism of the City. The chapter entitled "Liberal Converts" does not seem to us very logical, either in its argument or in its arrangement.

Mr. George Moore, the author of *A Mummer's Wife*, has published a pamphlet entitled *Literature at Nurse* (Vizetelly), in which he discusses, with special reference to the case of his own novel, the censorship of fiction which is practically exercised by the circulating libraries. His argument that this censorship has not been exercised with impartiality seems to us proved, supposing that the facts are as he states them. But as he seems to be proud of having introduced the realism of Zola into English literature, we fail to see the justice of his complaint that he has met with exceptional treatment in his new venture. To be excluded from Mudie's, and to be bought instead of being borrowed, is the very distinction which he ought to have desired. His pamphlet has not changed our opinion concerning the character of his novel.

We ought to have included in our notice of "Guide Books" last week the *Official Guides* to the three great railways of England—the London and North Western, the Midland, and the Great Western—which are published by Messrs. Cassell. They form substantial volumes of nearly 400 pages each, profusely illustrated with woodcuts of more than average merit, besides several series of maps. The text contains descriptions, for the most part without unnecessary verbiage, not only of the towns at which there are stations, but also of the country through which the railways pass, which should be useful to a stranger. In some cases, of course, the descriptions have to be repeated. We have noticed one or two matters that call for correction in future editions. To talk of "the elder Coleridge" (*Midland*, p. 39) seems as odd as would "the elder Wordsworth." In the same volume, which is dated in the present year, we read of "the *future* bishop of Southwell" (p. 238). And if it is correct (*ib.* p. 311) that the population of Bristol was 206, 503 in 1881, it must be by a slip that in the companion volume (*Great Western*, p. 74) exactly the same number of inhabitants is assigned to Bristol for 1883. We should not have drawn attention to these little points, if the general execution of the enterprise had not been so uniformly careful.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Mr. Browning has gone again to the fine wild place at which we reported his stay two years ago, Gressonay Saint Jean, in the Val d'Aosta. He was to reach it to-day, having started on Tuesday, and journeying *viâ* Bâle, Milan, and St. Martini.

We hear that the Rev. Dr. Abbott is at work on a new book.

Mr. J. S. Cotton has finished the work upon which he has been engaged for some months past at the India Office. Technically, it is a "Statement exhibiting the Moral and Material Progress and Condition of India during the year 1882-83," being the eighteenth of an annual series. But, in substance, it is a historical and statistical examination of all the departments that make up the administration of India, with special reference to the work of the past ten years. It forms a bluebook of about 370 pages. As an appendix to it will be issued a special report upon the agriculture of India by Mr. J. A. Baines, of the Bombay Civil Service, together with a series of maps compiled by Mr. Trelawney Saunders, of the India Office.

Vernon Lee is preparing for publication a new volume of essays on aesthetic and ethical questions, to be called *The Opinions of Baldwin*. It will include the dialogue on "The Responsibilities of Unbelief" which appeared in *The Contemporary Review* two or three years ago, together with a continuation of the argument. Mr. T. Fisher Unwin will be the publisher.

We understand that Messrs. Cassell & Co. have in the press a biography of Prince Bismarck, by Mr. Lawe, the correspondent of the *Times* at Berlin.

Mr. T. Fisher Unwin will publish next week *The New Godiva, and other Studies in Social Questions*, a volume of essays dealing with several aspects of the question which is just now agitating the public mind. Other contents, besides the essay which gives the book its title, are "The Sanction of Pureness," "Puissance Oblige," "The Western Harem," and "Zola in England." One, at least, of these essays has appeared in the *Westminster Review*. The book is issued anonymously.

Mr. Elliot Stock announces a new series of "Popular County Histories," intended to furnish readable chronicles of each county in England in a handy form. The volumes will be demy octavo size in roxburgh binding. Large paper copies will also be issued in quarto in restricted numbers. The first volume, which will be published very shortly, will be *Norfolk*, by Mr. Walter Rye; to be followed by *Devonshire*, by Mr. R. N. Worth; *Berkshire*, by Major Cooper King; and *Yorkshire*, by the Rev. R. V. Taylor.

Messrs. Hurst & Blackett will shortly publish a new work by the Rev. A. G. L'Estrange, entitled *The Palace and the Hospital*; or, Chronicles of Greenwich, in two volumes, with illustrations.

The same firm have in the press: *Dorothy Drake*, by Mr. Frederick H. Moore, in two volumes, and *A Faire Damzell*, by Mr. Esmé Stuart, in three volumes.

We understand that Mr. Charles Welsh's Life of John Newbery, under the title of *A Bookseller of the Last Century*, which we announced some time ago as in preparation, will be published this autumn. The work has grown very

much beyond the originally anticipated dimensions. Mr. Welsh will be glad of any information with reference to the books printed by Carnan & Newbery and Newbery & Micklewright at Reading between 1737 and 1747.

Mr. G. A. Grierson, of the Bengal Civil Service, has devoted himself during a ten years' residence in India to studying the language and people of the Province of Behar. Quite recently we received the first part of a Comparative Dictionary of the Bihari language, compiled by him in collaboration with Dr. Rudolf Hoernle. He has also written a more popular work, *Bihar Peasant Life*, which is now being printed at the Bengal Secretariat Press. It contains an elaborate account of agriculture and domestic customs, with a list of several thousand words in daily use, and is illustrated with a number of lithographs prepared at the Calcutta School of Art from photographs taken by the author. The publishers in this country will be Messrs. Trübner.

Mr. Will Carleton, the author of *Farm Legends*, has nearly ready a new volume of poems.

Mr. T. J. Northy, an Exeter journalist, has in the press a *Popular History of Exeter*. The object of the publication is to place in the hands of the citizens and visitors a history of old "Semper Fidelis" in an attractive form, and at a moderate price. The work is in the hands of the printers at the *Western Antiquary* Office, Plymouth, and it will be dedicated to the Mayor of Exeter.

The Rev. J. C. Atkinson, of Danby, is preparing an edition of the Cartulary of Furness Abbey, Yorkshire.

A new Browning Society has been started at Scarborough, in consequence of the "Browning evening" held there by Mr. Ernest Radford during his course of art lectures for the Cambridge Extension Scheme last spring. At the committee's special request, Mr. Radford will give an address at the inaugural meeting of the society in October.

M. Adolf Patera, of the Czech Museum, Prag, has undertaken to edit Wyclif's *De Potestate Papae* for the Wyclif Society. Miss Alice Shirley will english his Forewards and Notes.

A translation, by Mr. C. C. Massey, of Dr. E. von Hartmann's recent work on *Spiritism* is now appearing in *Light*. The translation will also be issued in a separate form by the Psychological Press.

The September number of *Book-Lore* will contain a paper on the "Penzance Public Library," by Mr. W. Roberts. It will also give a further contribution on "Sham Almanacs," by Mr. Cornelius Walford.

The September number of *Walford's Antiquarian* will contain the conclusion of the Rev. Joseph Maskell's paper on "William Thynne, Chaucer's First Editor," an article by the editor on the house of Milton at Chalfont St. Giles, and also a further instalment of "England in 1689," being extracts from a diary written by Samuel Sewall, the American judge, communicated by Mr. James Greenstreet.

In addition to the well-known series of Pettitt's Diaries, the transfer of which we announced some time since, Messrs. Griffith, Farran & Co. have purchased the entire set of Blackwood's Diaries. They will publish both series together, in good time for Christmas and the New Year.

Mr. Justin McCarthy's *History of our Own Times* has been translated into French by M. Léopold Goirand.

We have received vol. iii. of the *Estudios Históricos* of Padre F. Fita. The varied learning of the author is well shown in this volume. There is a Galician translation of Lib. IV. of the Codex Calixtinus, containing the Carolingian Romance, the inedited Latin poems and minor works of Gil de Zamora, mediaeval Hebrew letters and documents, Catalan mediaeval histories, and a number of Latin inscriptions, supplementing or correcting those of Hübner's *Corpus*, vol. ii.

AMERICAN JOTTINGS.

It is rumoured that Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons, of New York, the original founders of the *Century*, will start next year a new illustrated magazine, to be called *Scribner's Monthly*.

Messrs. Robert Bros., of Boston, announce the *Life and Letters of John Brown*, "Liberator of Kansas and Martyr of Virginia," edited by Mr. Frank B. Sanborn, with two portraits and facsimiles of documents. More than half the book will consist of John Brown's own writings; and there will also be a brief autobiography of his father, giving an account of life in Connecticut a hundred years ago.

Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons, of New York, have in preparation a series of historical volumes to be called "The Story of the Nations." The subjects are planned so as to cover, so far as possible, consecutive periods or epochs; but it is not intended to issue them in chronological order. Among the volumes already arranged for are *Greece*, by Prof. J. A. Harrison, of the Washington and Lee University; *Rome*, by Mr. A. Gilman; *The Jews*, by Prof. J. K. Hosmer; *Carthage*, by Prof. Alfred Church; *Norway*, by Prof. H. H. Boyesen; and *The Goths*, by Mr. Henry Bradley.

The new publishing firm of Messrs. Ticknor & Co., of Boston, which was constituted on the failure of Messrs. Osgood, announce for early publication a long list of books inherited from their predecessors. Among them we notice the Life of Longfellow, edited by his brother; novels by both Mr. Howells and Mr. James, now running in magazines; *Social Silhouettes*, by Mr. Edgar Fawcett; *The Young People's Tennyson*, edited by Mr. W. J. Rolfe; and an illustrated edition of *Childe Harold*.

Mr. William Andrews's *Modern Yorkshire Poets* is being reprinted for early publication in the United States. The American press noticed favourably the English edition.

The New York *Literary News* thus arranges the books of the month in its usual prize competition:—Lord Lytton's *Glenaveril*, 36 votes; Miss Jean Ingelow's Poems, 28 votes; Mr. Hall Caine's *The Shadow of a Crime*, 25 votes.

Mr. Lowell has presented to the library of Harvard College a collection of more than six hundred volumes, mostly Spanish, which he had acquired during his residence in England.

In reply to a petition of the Toronto Trades and Labour Council to have the Canadian copyright law changed, so as to place publishers in that country on the same footing as American publishers, the Dominion Government has declared that it would be inexpedient to alter the present law, as it furnishes means of excluding from the market all American reprints of the works of British authors which Canadian publishers may find it advantageous to republish in the Dominion; that it gives the Canadian public facilities for procuring cheap editions of such books as Canadian publishers do not desire to reprint; and that it gives Canadian authors, Canadian publishers, and the Canadian public, the advantage of participating in copyright benefits co-extensive with the whole British empire and territories covered by international treaties.

Mr. Caspar, of Milwaukee (a place we have hitherto associated only with the export of wheat) has sent us an elaborate Directory of Antiquarian Booksellers and Dealers in Second-hand Books in the United States. The names and addresses are arranged under three headings; but for English readers the most valuable features are the lists of bibliographical works published in America, England, France, and Germany, and the hints how to discover the author, title, &c., of any book that may be wanted.

ORIGINAL VERSE.

BY A NORWEGIAN STREAM.

(*Husum in the Laerdal.*)

On these high fells tempest and cloud have been,
But now the winds are hush'd, and soft the sky,
Upon this golden morning of July—
White barks afloat amid the blue serene.
Alone I watch this vast and sombre scene,
And yet not all alone; those pines on high,
This cataract's roar shall be my company,
And the wild hills that fold the dark ravine.

Ah, Nature! not where most thy bounties bless—
Cornfields and pastures and green forest-glade—
Most at the sight of thee man's nature thrills;
But, from the dismal town, the buzz of trade,
His spirit seeks the gorge-rent wilderness,
And finds a home amid th' unpeopled hills.

July 22, 1885. C. E. Tyrer.

OBITUARY.

LORD HOUGHTON.

I have been asked to write something about our latest loss, Monckton Milnes (Lord Houghton)—a loss which will be deplored far and wide as the English language is spoken. But the bereavement is too recent, the wound is still too sore. All I can say of him at present is that, during the course of a long, busy, and fruitful life he never said an unkind word, and he never did an unkind deed.

Richard F. Burton.

If the love of personal reminiscences should be as prolific of literature during the forthcoming fifteen years as it has been during the past eighty-five years, it seems probable that Lord Houghton will one day enjoy the distinction of figuring in more biographies and autobiographies than any man of his century. It appeared to be one of his chief aims in life to know, and to be known by, everybody who was of consequence in literature. And he was admirably furnished by nature with the qualities needful for the *rôle* of universal friend. Without anything like envy, with the largest appreciativeness, with a proper sense of the limit of his own literary claims, he was as well able as a man can be to make and sustain the acquaintance of authors. He attached himself to no coteries, and tried to live on terms of peace with those who were at the deadliest enmity with each other. Adopting the *rôle* of universal friend, he was judicious enough to avoid the other *rôle* of universal peacemaker. In his intercourse with men who, from any cause, had fallen apart, he rarely tried to "do away the marks of that which once had been." He could sincerely accept David Gray as a poet, and welcome with no lack of spontaneity the other poet to whom Gray was but a "feeble Scotch poetaster." Even a passive appreciativeness of all kinds and conditions of literary talent is not always without its pains and penalties, but Lord Houghton had the trick of escaping them. Probably his social eminence contributed more towards his exemption from serious attack than certain of us would care to allow. It is one of the dubious qualities of the literary character that it sometimes appears to find pleasure in the act of castigation in propor-

tion to the acuteness with which each stroke is felt. If felt on the side of wounded pride and baffled ambition, then it is well; but if on the side of daily bread and butter, then so much the better. Lord Houghton's susceptibilities wore a tolerably thick skin, and he was not liable to material injury as a professional author. So he went through his long life as the friend of all, and the enemy of few or none.

Of Lord Houghton's early relation to the Tractarian movement I do not feel myself qualified to speak. I have read his *One Tract More*, and have found it vigorously written, and from an independent standpoint. His essays on current political and social questions were few. The most notable of them was as much theological as political in intellectual bearing, being a plea for the concurrent endowment of Protestant and Catholic Churches, as a method of cementing a real union between England and Ireland. Lord Houghton's literary interests and ambitions come somewhat more within my range of knowledge and sympathy. He was at Cambridge in 1830, and, therefore, could not resist the attracting power of Coleridge. Once at least he saw the old man eloquent, and it was in that room overlooking London which Carlyle has described in a bit of his most vivid writing. That Wordsworth had a strong influence over Lord Houghton's poetic adolescence is clear enough, though Tennyson's influence is even more apparent.

Lord Houghton's reputation as a poet stood so high at one stage of his career that it is not altogether easy, perhaps, for his contemporaries of a later generation to realise by what agency of competitive pressure it has in recent years been permitted almost entirely to disappear. His poetry is at least distinguished by feeling and taste. It cannot be said to possess many of those highest qualities of beauty and strength which are the first and last qualities of poetry that abides. It is certainly wanting in vital human passion, and does not lay hold of any powerful emotion. It is destitute of those evidences of uncontrollable impulse which give life, at all events, to the ultra-rhetorical utterances of some rhapsodical poetasters. But in lucidity of thought and of expression, in hopefulness of tone, in sweetness of temper, it is often eminent; and these are not qualities in which modern poetry is so rich that we can at once afford to forget the poet who possessed them. Most of all, Lord Houghton, as a poet, had usually something to say, which, amid all this attention to metre and millinery, is apparently the rarest quality of all. *Poems of Many Years* and *Palm Leaves* were accepted on their publication as denoting the advent of a new and genuine, if not a great and lasting, poet. This cordiality of reception was probably due in part to a favourable juncture of circumstances. The earlier volume appeared at a time when, after a lull in poetic production, the public mind was in a condition to accept whatever new voice had the promise of excellence. The "London" school had gone, with the exception of Hunt, and he was practically silent. The "Lake" school had disappeared, with the exception of Wordsworth, and he had long ago produced his noblest work. Scott was dead. Tennyson's fame had not yet attained to that supremacy which has since been above question. Sir Henry Taylor and R. H. Horne alone were quite on that level which Lord Houghton, as a poet, occupied. But then came the great school of sub-Wordsworthian and sub-Tennysonian poets, and Lord Houghton's unambitious volumes of verse were too soon lost. He accepted his rejection amid this crowd of aspirants without a word of anger or any exhibition of envy. Nor is it likely that another day will yet come for him.

It was in 1848 that Lord Houghton published his Life of Keats. The poet had then been dead twenty-seven years, and had already become a notable figure in literature. He was, indeed, where he had predicted that he would be—among the English poets. The tardy *Edinburgh* article of 1820 had been followed by more than one warm and important eulogy. Hence it would be an error to say, even in the most elastic sense, that Lord Houghton discovered Keats. But he helped forward the strong tide that was flowing in Keats's favour, and perhaps he lived to see that tide reach the full flood. Towards a proper understanding of the poet's character Lord Houghton undoubtedly contributed, and this constitutes no light claim to the gratitude of his time. But the primary object with which he is said to have undertaken his task—namely, that of disputing the injurious idea that the soul of Keats was "snuffed out by an article"—was, I venture to think, just that part of his purpose which he did not achieve. Keats's masculinity requires no defence. It is perfectly evident in nearly all he did and said. But that the friends who were nearest to Keats at the end were the most likely to understand him, and that the poet was, at least, a witness worthy to be heard in any inquiry into his own character—these obvious arguments and the few palpable facts that go with them were not disturbed by Lord Houghton. And Severn, Hunt, and Keats himself are surely clear enough as to the injury sustained by the poet from criticism that was outrageous enough to be laughed at, but was at the same time too damaging to all hopes and aims and chances in life to be ignored by a young writer who was clearly setting out to live by his pen.

Lord Houghton's interest in Keats never ceased and never flagged. One of his last public acts was to induce Mr. Gladstone to give Keats's sister a small pension. To this act of grace he was good enough to say that the present writer had prompted him; but I believe it is a fact that long before I had any knowledge of the circumstances, Lord Houghton had made a similar application to Lord Beaconsfield. On that earlier occasion he failed, partly because Mr. Buxton Forman had in the same interests, but in another direction, been successful.

T. H. C.

Mr. William John Thoms, antiquary and booklover, died on Saturday last, August 15, in the eighty-second year of his age. His name will always be associated with *Notes and Queries*, which he founded in 1849, and of which he remained editor until 1873. He was also at one time secretary to the Camden Society, and almost to the last deputy-librarian to the House of Lords. The tendency of his mind was towards the by-paths both of history and literature; and concerning these his knowledge was unrivalled, as well as readily available. Among many books that he wrote or edited, the best known is his sceptical treatise on *Human Longevity* (1873), the main drift of which has been since refuted by the evidence of ascertained facts.

We have also to record the death of the Rev. Dr. John Griffiths, some time warden of Wadham College, Oxford, and Keeper of the Archives of the University since 1857. It will be remembered that his choice collection of prints was sold two years ago, when a first state of Rembrandt's etching of the "Advocate van Tol" fetched the extraordinary price of £1,510.

MAGAZINES AND REVIEWS.

The current number of the *Journal* of the Statistical Society (Stanford) contains two papers of more than usual interest. The one is on the "The Laws of Migration" by Mr. E. G. Ravenstein; the other is on "Indian Railways and Indian Wheat," by Mr. A. K. Connell. Mr. Ravenstein's paper occupies sixty pages, and is illustrated with twelve coloured maps. Its object is to show the *currents*, rather than the *laws*, of migration in the United Kingdom by means of the returns of birthplace given in the census of 1881. In the investigation of this subject, the method usually adopted hitherto has been to compare the estimated increase of births over deaths with the ascertained increase of inhabitants between the dates of two enumerations, and then to infer that the balance consists of immigration. The fallacy of this method is that it makes no allowance for emigration. The superiority of Mr. Ravenstein's method consists in the fact that it distinguishes emigration as well as immigration, and also determines within certain limits the destination of the one and the source of the other. As this paper will doubtless be republished in a more permanent form, we will content ourselves with calling the author's attention to two minor points. In the table on p. 189, the word "Selkirk" has been inadvertently substituted for "Peebles" in the heading of the columns. When explaining the curious fact that females are found to be more migratory than males, Mr. Ravenstein omits to take into consideration the prevalence to the present day of exogamy. Women leave their homes not only for domestic service and to work in factories, but also to follow their husbands. Mr. Connell's paper is to support the paradox that the Indian Government, by encouraging railways, has injured the people in two ways: (1) by taxing them to support an unremunerative enterprise; (2) by causing a depletion of their stores of food. It seems sufficient to reply (1) that the railways of India are on the whole as remunerative as those of any other country in the world; (2) that there is no evidence of depletion in the particular tracts from which the exports of wheat come. The paper, however, is well worth reading, owing to its perverse ingeniousness.

The *Revista Contemporanea* for July contains a sketch of the last days of the Templars in Aragon, by Hernández Sanahuja; the most interesting portion is a translation from a Catalan chronicler whose name is not given. Dionisio Chaulié concludes his addition to his "Cosas de Madrid," by an account of the popular songs of the reign of Fernando VII., noting the variations of taste. Lorenzo Benito reviews Señora Pardo Bazan's last novel, *El Cisne de Vilamorta*, declaring it superior to its predecessors. A paper on the condition of the working classes, by B. Antequera, paints the state of the factory worker and the agricultural labourer in Spain as very bad, and declaims against present social laws as unjust to the poor. Señor Gutierrez has an article on literary sports, anagrams, acrostics, logogryphs, &c., which are declared to be the mark of a period of decadence. He also continues his chapters on the Ode; as F. Merino does his on the Catacombs, deciding that they are almost wholly the work of Christians.

THOREAU'S WILD WOOD PHILOSOPHY.

At the recent gathering of the Concord School of Philosophy, Mr. H. G. O. Blake, Thoreau's latest editor, read some extracts from the unpublished writings of Thoreau, from which we quote the following:

"You wander indefinitely in a beaded coat, wet to the skin of your legs, sit on moss-clad rocks and stumps, and hear the lisping of migratory sparrows amid the scrub oaks. Sit long at a time, still, and have your thoughts. A rain which is as serene as fair weather, suggesting fairer weather than was ever seen. You could hug the clods that defile you; you feel the felicitating influence of the rain in your mind. The part of you that is wettest is fullest of life, like the lichens. You discover evidences

of immortality not known to divines. You cease to die. You derive some buds and sprouts of life. Every step in the old rye-field is on virgin soil. And then the rain comes thicker and faster than before, thawing the remaining frost in the ground, detaining the migrating bird, and you turn your back to it full of serene, contented thoughts, soothed by the steady dropping on the withered leaves, more at home for being abroad; more comfortable for being wet; sinking at each step deep into the thawing earth, gladly breaking through grey, rotting ice. The dullest sounds seem sweetly modulated by the air. You leave your tracks in fields of spring rye. Seeing the fox-coloured sparrows along the woodsides, you cannot go home yet. You sit still in the rain; you glide along the distant woodside full of joy and expectation, seeing nothing but beauty, hearing nothing but music, as free as the fox-coloured sparrow.* *

"In the presence of my friend I am ashamed of my fingers and toes. I have no feature so fair as my love for him. There is more than maiden modesty between us. I find myself more simple and sincere than in my most private moment to myself. I am literally true with a witness. We should sooner blot out the sun than disturb friendship. * * * * * *

"There sits one by the shore who wishes to go with me, but I cannot think of it. I must be fancy free. There is no such mote in the sky as a man who is not perfectly transparent to you, who has any opacity. I would rather attend to him for half an hour or more on shore, or elsewhere, and then dismiss him. He thinks I could merely take him into my boat and then not mind him. He does not realise that I should by the same act take him into my mind, where there is no room for him, and my barque would surely founder in such a voyage as I was contemplating. I know very well I should never reach that expansion of the river I have in my mind with him on board with his broad, terrene qualities. He would sink my barque and never know it. I could better carry a heaped load of meadow mud and sit on the thole pins. There would be more room for me, and I should reach that expansion of the river nevertheless. I could better afford to take him into bed with me, for then I might perhaps abandon him in my dreams. Ah! you are a heavy fellow. But I am well disposed. If you could go without going, then you might go. There is the captain's state-room empty, to be sure, and you say you could go in the steerage. I know very well that only your baggage would be dropped in the steerage, while you would settle right down into that other snug recess. Why, I am going; no, staying. I have come on purpose to sail, to paddle away from such as you, and you have waylaid me on the shore. If I thought you were steadily gazing after me a mile off, I could not endure it. It is because I trust that I shall ere long depart from your thoughts and so you from mine, that I am encouraged to set sail at all. This company is obliged to make a distinction between freight and passengers. I will take any amount of freight for you cheerfully, anything, my dear sir, but yourself. What is getting into a man's carriage when it is full, compared with putting your foot into his mouth and popping right into his mind, without considering whether it is occupied or not?"

SELECTED FOREIGN BOOKS.

GENERAL LITERATURE.

Charmes, G. Politique extérieure et coloniale. Paris: Calmann Lévy. 3 fr 50 c.

Hirschfeld, O., u. R. Schneider. Bericht. üb. e. Reise in Dalmatien. Wien: Gerold's Sohn. 2 M.

HISTORY.

Bilek, Th. Beiträge zur Geschichte Waldsteins. Prag: Rziwnatz. 8 M.

Boeke, W. Heinrich VIII. v. England u. die Curie in den Jahren 1528-29. Göttingen: Akadem. Buchhdlg. 1 M. 20 Pf.

Denifle, H. Die Universitäten d. Mittelalters bis 1400. 1. Bd. Die Entstehung der Universitäten d. Mittelalters bis 1400. Berlin: Weidmann. 24 M.

Droysen, H. Untersuchungen über Alexander d. Grossen Heerwesen u. Kriegführung. Freiburg-i.-B.: Mohr. 2 M.

Fournier, A. Historische Studien u. Skizzen. Leipzig: Freytag. 8 M

Hase, K. Kirchengeschichte auf der Grundlage akademischer Vorlesungen. 1. Thl. Alte Kirchengeschichte. Leipzig: Breitkopf & Härtel. 12 M.

Keussen, H. Die politische Stellung der Reichsstädte m. besond. Berücksichtg. ihrer Reichsstandschaft unter König Friedrich III. 1440-57. Leipzig: Fock. 1 M. 20 Pf.

Monumenta Germaniae historica. Scriptorum rerum Merovingicarum tom I. pars 2. Hannover: Hahn. 15 M.

Monumenta vaticana historiam regni Hungariae illustrantia. Series I. tom 2. Acta legationis cardinalis Gentilis. 1307-11. Budapest. 20 M.

Mueller, K. Die Anfänge d. Minoritenordens u. der Bussbruderschaften. Frieburg-i.-B.: Mohr. 5 M.

Pribram, A. F. Oesterreich u. Brandenburg. 1688-1700. Leipzig: Freytag. 6 M.

Witte, H. Zur Geschichte der Entstehung der Burgunderkriege. Herzog Sigmunds v. Oesterreich Beziehgn. zu den Eidgenossen u. zu Karl dem Kühnen v. Burgund, 1469-74. Hagenau: Ruckstuhl. 1 M. 50 Pf.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE.

Brauer, F. Systematisch-zoologische Studien. Wien: Gerold's Sohn. 3 M.

Ebner, V. v. Die Lösungsflächen d. Kalkspathes u. d. Aragonites. II. III. Wien: Gerold's Sohn. 4 M.

Eichler, A. W. Zur Entwickelungsgeschichte der Palmblätter. Berlin: Dümmler. 4 M.

Sandberger, F. Untersuchungen über Erzgänge. 2. Hft. Wiesbaden: Kreidel. 10 M.

PHILOLOGY.

Baunack, J. u. Th. Die Inschrift v. Gortyn. Leipzig: Hirzel. 4 M.

Calpurnii et Nemesiani bucolica, rec. H. Schenke. Leipzig: Freytag. 6 M.

Dvorák, R. Ueb. die Fremdwörter im Korân. Wien: Gerold's Sohn. 1 M. 30 Pf.

Luebbert, E. Commentatio de poesis Pindaricae in archia et sphragide componendis arte. Bonn: Cohen. 1 M.

Meisterhans, K. Grammatik der attischen Inschriften. Berlin: Weidmann. 4 M.

Orphica. Rec. E. Abel. Leipzig: Freytag. 5 M.

Prinzhorn, G. De libris Terentianis quae ad recensionem Calliopianam redeunt. Göttingen: Spielmeyer. 1 M.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LORD HOUGHTON AND KEATS.

London: August 15, 1885.

The newspapers (as you remark this week) have made a singular error in describing Lord Houghton as the personal friend of Keats. But your statement that Landor induced Lord Houghton to become Keats's biographer does not, I think, quite cover the facts. I have recently had occasion to examine the question in connexion with an article that I am writing for the *Dictionary of National Biography*, and my conclusions (partly founded on a communication from Lord Houghton himself) are as follows.

In 1833, Lord Houghton—then Mr. R. M. Milnes—met for the first time in Landor's villa at Fiesole Keats's intimate friend, Charles Armitage Brown. Brown, who was the poet's daily companion between 1817 and 1820, had come into possession of a large number of Keats's papers (including many unpublished poems) on the latter's departure for Rome in 1820, and, since Keats's death in the following year, had contemplated writing a life of his friend. There is reason to believe that he completed a brief memoir (which was never published) soon after Keats's death. But he was living in Italy from 1822 and 1835, and during that time did little towards producing an elaborate biography. After 1835 he resided near Plymouth, and was engaged in literary work of various kinds. He then seems to have returned to his original plan, and gave public lectures on Keats in the neighbourhood of Plymouth. But he was at the same time preparing his well-known book on Shakspere's sonnets, and had made no very satisfactory progress with the long-projected life, when in 1840 he suddenly emigrated to New Zealand. Before leaving England Brown handed over his collections for Keats's biography to Lord Houghton, with whom he had been on friendly terms since their first meeting seven years before. Lord Houghton, in the first edition of his Life of Keats (1848), fully acknowledges his indebtedness to Brown, and he repeated much of that acknowledgment in a letter written a week or two ago. It is possible that Landor, who visited Brown at Plymouth in 1837 and was at all times very intimate with him, suggested the wisdom of inviting Lord Houghton to continue and complete the biography. But Brown, rather than Landor, should be regarded as the effective promoter of Lord Houghton's book.

I have obtained for my notice of Brown much information from both published and unpublished sources, and I find his career to be of greater interest than any literary historian has hitherto credited it with. He was a literary critic of no mean ability, and was the intimate associate of most of the men of genius of his time. A contemporary of his, who still survives, identifies him with the writer described by Leigh Hunt (in the *Tatler* for January 14, 1831), as "one of the most genuine wits now living." But had his sole service to literature been that of forming the link between Lord Houghton and Keats, his name would not deserve to be quite forgotten. Sidney L. Lee.

THE EGYPTIAN "NEFER" AND THE SIAMESE "SAW TAI."

London: August 19, 1885.

Mr. Stuart (Academy, No. 693, p. 104) considers these two instruments to be "absolutely identical." This arose from a hasty impression. The resemblance consists merely in a long neck and heart-shaped body. The "nefer" was an instrument of the sitár and tambúra species. It had apparently four strings, with a finger-board like a guitar, and no foot beyond the body. The "saw tai" has no finger-board, is played with a bow (an enormous bow, bigger than our double bass bow), and has a foot projecting beyond the body on which the instrument rests when it is played, and it has only three strings. It much resembles the Arabic "rabáb," which, however, has only two strings. In both, as in the Chinese fiddles, which the Siamese also use, there is no finger-board, but only a long round neck, carrying the pegs to screw the strings to pitch. They are tuned in very fair fourths. The three strings are tied to this neck at some distance below the pegs, leaving a sounding length between the ligature and the bridge of 360 millimetres (about 14⅖ inches). The strings are of twisted silk. The body is of cocoa-nut, and the sound-board is merely parchment, with a jewelled disc about as big as half-a-crown, but thicker, attached possibly for the purpose of destroying the proper tones of the parchment skin. The instrument I examined at the Siamese legation, in presence of its player, was very elaborately and beautifully ornamented. The foot was of carved ivory. The lower part of the neck was also of carved ivory, but the upper part of enamelled gold. Jewels were placed where convenient. But the curious part of the instrument is the absence of a finger-board. The strings are limited merely by the pressure of the fingers on the strings, and not, as in the violin class, by nipping the string between the finger and the finger-board. Thus the note produced at any place was not of a fixed pitch. It varied with the pressure of the finger. The tone was not sharp and defined as in the violin species, but rather hazy. The instrument, however, allowed of considerable execution, but should be heard in a moderately sized room, and not in such a colossal place as the Albert Hall. Alexander J. Ellis.

ROSCHER'S LEXICON OF GREEK AND ROMAN MYTHOLOGY.

Scrayingham Rectory, York: August 18, 1885.

Being virtually in hearty agreement with Mr. Isaac Taylor's remarks on Roscher's Mythological Dictionary in the current number of the Academy (August 15), I should, perhaps,

be scarcely justified in reviewing a review, unless I felt that I might be able to remove some misconceptions which may hinder the progress of mythological science in this country.

Of Roscher's work in itself I do not propose to say anything. Mr. Taylor has spoken of it with perfect fairness as a book which was much wanted, and which seems likely to meet the want admirably for German readers. It would be absurd to pretend that it can do so for readers who think that some things may deserve notice which lie beyond the limits of German learning and research. It is true that only a small portion of Roscher's Lexicon has thus far been published; but enough has appeared to make it a matter for regret that the work of many of the most diligent workers in the field of comparative mythology has been left altogether unnoticed. It may, I think, be safely said that in the vast multitude of treatises which have dealt with the most important questions connected with the science not one has appeared more masterly, exhaustive, and conclusive than M. Bréal's monographs on the myths of Hercules and Cacus, and of the Theban Oedipus; and, so far as his published numbers go, neither Dr. Roscher nor his colleagues seem even to have heard of M. Bréal. It may also be reasonably said that some of the writers in the new lexicon have allowed themselves a large license of somewhat arbitrary speculation.

That the general result of the work, so far as it has gone, should exhibit the general consensus of comparative mythologists against the haphazard mode which explains the myths of the ancient Aryan world by references to those of modern savage tribes, is only what we might have looked for. This mode has no method, and is simply a fashion, which, as resting on essentially imperfect comparisons, must soon pass away. But it would have been better if the general agreement of mythologists had been brought out more clearly than in the new dictionary it seems to have been. Mr. Taylor speaks, necessarily, of the great variety of the sources from which mythological conceptions have been derived; and certainly I never supposed that I was putting forth any new conclusion when, in the preface to my *Mythology of the Aryan Nations*, I insisted on the fact that "the mighty mass of popular myths in every Aryan land has been shaped by words and phrases describing *all* the varied and complex phenomena of day and night, of summer and winter, of earth and heaven." In the latest edition of this book I have been especially anxious to show, in Mr. Taylor's words, "that a larger part of the Greek mythology than had been supposed may be traced to Babylonian and Phoenician sources."

That of the myths which have clustered round the name of Aphrodite some may be traced to such sources, I have no wish to dispute; and I am quite ready to place the name itself in the same class with Melikertes and Palaimon, so soon as reasonable grounds are given for so doing. But if the Semitic myths thus imported into the West speak of her as the moon-goddess, it does not follow that the Aphrodite of the Greeks is not, in many of her aspects, the dawn, and seemingly the dawn only. Mr. Taylor speaks of Prof. Max Müller and myself as having overlooked "the Oriental origin of the myth"; but surely myths, or clusters of myths, which may be traced to the banks of the Indus, or further eastwards still, are in their origin very Oriental indeed. But perhaps Mr. Taylor may by the term Oriental denote only what is Semitic. If so, the restriction of meaning may hereafter prove very inconvenient.

But Mr. Taylor has himself shown how a Babylonian or Egyptian myth may become modified in its westward course. Thus he says that, as "the Asiatic moon-goddess was developed under Phoenician influence into the Hellenic Aphrodite, she lost most of the traces of her lunar origin." Of this last fact there can be no doubt. What seems to me most doubtful is that the Greeks had no notion of Aphrodite until they came under Phoenician influence.

In dealing with Athene Prof. Max Müller naturally sought for the name as well as the thing in the land which revealed Varuna as answering to the Greek Ouranos and Dyaus to the Greek Zeus. There he found both the thing and the name; and by the first principle of comparative mythology he was bound to take both into account. To put these facts aside and to refer the name to the root of ἀθ-ήρ a spearhead, is violently arbitrary. To the notion that Pallas Athene was so-called as the spear-brandisher, we might be tempted to reply, *Credat Judaeus*. She was so-called as much and as little as Palaimon was so-called from his powers as a wrestler. When the name of the Latin Mars is derived from the root *mar*, to shine, we have to ask whether the root *mar*, to pound, is not after all the same. Before we come to a different conclusion, we must first dispose of Prof. Max Müller's lecture on this root, and its varied adventures through the world. Scarcely less arbitrary seems the fashion which treats Achilleus as a river-god. Either he is such, or he is not. The incidents recorded of him in the twenty-first book of the *Iliad* seem to answer the question decisively in the negative.

These, however, are minor matters. It would have been well if Dr. Roscher and his colleagues had worked in a larger spirit; and it is possible that some of their speculations may retard the growth of the science. But of the stability of the science there is no question. All that is done only seems to bring out more and more clearly the nature and value of the materials with which we have to deal, and to discredit what Mr. Taylor has well called the Hottentotic method of accounting for the myths of the ancient world through the folklore of modern savages. The residuary problems left for the mere anthropologist to solve are, as he says, very few. In the ground thus left open he may, and, we need not doubt, will do good service. But on the solid foundations of the science, his efforts, if they should be hostile, will make no impression.

GEORGE W. COX.

"ARABIAN MATRIARCHATE."

London: August 17, 1885.

It would, maybe, afford relief to the minds of students accustomed to place reliance on his opinions, if Dr. E. B. Tylor would give full effect to the inference, and admit that he was not sufficiently guarded in his words at Montreal when he stated that among the Arabs to this day there survives that most matriarchal idea that "one's nearest relative is not one's own father, but one's maternal uncle."

This assertion was the only point on which I wished to record a decided objection in my paper to the Royal Asiatic Society. I gave in that paper a sketch of Prof. Wilken's treatise, merely to show that he had not enunciated such a conclusion, and that to my mind all his arguments for an ancient Arabian matriarchate were inconclusive. His new treatise appears to me of the same character.

The *batn* and *khāl* questions are collateral to my main contention, and are too large to be argued in your columns. They may, perhaps, be minutely examined by a younger generation. Meanwhile, I do not commit myself, one way or another, to any decided view on a conceivable prehistoric Arabian or Semitic matriarchate.

J. W. REDHOUSE.

"OFFPRINT."

2 Salisbury Villas, Cambridge: Aug. 15, 1885.

Various terms, such as "deprint," "exprint," &c., have been proposed to denote a separately printed copy of a pamphlet distributed to friends. Neither "deprint" nor "exprint" conveys any intelligible idea. But, by comparison with "offshoot," I think we might use "offprint" with some hope of expressing what is meant.

WALTER W. SKEAT.

SCIENCE.

A History of British Birds. By William Yarrell. Fourth Edition, in 4 vols., illustrated by 564 wood-engravings. Revised and enlarged, Vols. I. and II., by Prof. Alfred Newton; Vols. III. and IV. by Howard Saunders. 1871-85. (J. van Voorst.)

AT length the fourth edition of "Yarrell" is complete. But the revision and enlargement of the book which has long been the standard work on the ornithology of the British Islands fills one with a certain measure of regret. One cannot but think how much more representative and more useful a similar *Ornithologia Britannica* would have been if it had been undertaken by Prof. Newton, untrammelled by the necessity of following in the lines of a book first published so long ago. The completion of the present republication in June has been obviously due to the law of copyright; for in that month the copyright lapsed, and it is now legal for anyone to republish the book as it was last issued by its author. But with this improved re-issue before the world, bibliographers are not now likely to be confused by such a reprint. The fourth edition of "Yarrell" will remain for many years a classic without a rival.

The history of the book is interesting. Its success has found no parallel in the nineteenth century; even the *Birds* of Bewick, whose merit lay rather in his drawings than in his letter-press, takes lower rank. Extensive as is the literature of British ornithology, there is no book which is entirely comparable to Yarrell's, whether we take the popular or the scientific standpoint. The first edition was commenced in July, 1837, and the work was completed in three volumes in May 1843, just forty-two years ago. The repute of Bewick's woodcuts at that time, and especially of his tail-pieces, stimulated a keen emulation; but the skill of the late John Thompson was not sufficient to ensure anything like the results of the master who had made woodcutting an art worthy of his own artistic power. However, the efforts of the publisher were rewarded by a rapid sale, and in two years it was found necessary to issue a second edition—in 1845. Within a few months of the author's death, which occurred on September 6, 1856, a third edition appeared. In March 1871 it was announced that a fourth edition was in preparation by Prof. Newton, perhaps the most learned and accurate ornithologist of our day in England; and the issue of the first part, in June 1871, was eagerly welcomed. But it soon became apparent that, between Prof. Newton's anxiety to equal, and even to exceed, the reputation of the previous editions, and the many calls upon his erudition from other sources, it

was impossible for him to make such rapid progress as the publisher demanded. Consequently, Prof. Newton, to the regret of every ornithologist, abandoned the editorship on the completion of the second volume, in May 1882. The remainder of the work was entrusted to Mr. Howard Saunders, who is to be congratulated on having completed his contract within the appointed time. In his preface, dated April 30, 1885, he confesses that he undertook the office "not willingly or with a light heart"—a frame of mind natural to any one who essayed to follow in the professor's wake.

The present edition of "Yarrell" describes and figures (with the exception of the American stint, vol. iii., p. 396, which has no figure) 363 species of British birds, which are grouped in fifty-nine families. But of course, in a work which has taken fourteen years to complete, much of the information in its earlier parts is already out of date. Accordingly Mr. Saunders, in his Preface, enumerates the names and reported occurrences of twelve additional species which have also "some right to be enumerated in the British list," "excluding certain New World *passeres* which cannot reasonably be supposed to have reached our shores without human agency." Among the former we may call attention to Pallas's grey shrike (*Lanius major*), the introduction of which to British ornithologists is mainly due to Mr. H. Seebohm, who gives an exhaustive account of it in his *History of British Birds*, with coloured illustrations of their eggs (vol. i., p. 595, 1883). The authenticated occurrence of the wall-creeper (*Tichodroma muraria*) in Lancashire on May 8, 1872, recorded by Mr. F. S. Mitchell, is also worthy of notice. The only other published instance of this bird having been seen in Great Britain, at least since Willughby's time, was made known by Marsham in a letter to Gilbert White in 1792. As a proof of the advance of ornithology in recent years it may also be mentioned that two species of wheatear (*Saxicola stapazina* and *Saxicola deserti*) distinct from the form said to be familiar to epicures (*Saxicola oenanthe*) have been obtained in Great Britain; and it is possible that several examples of the barred warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*) have escaped notice, seeing that at least two have been identified since Prof. Newton, in 1879, exhibited a specimen obtained in a garden at Cambridge many years ago. Previous to the system inaugurated by Prof. Newton in this work, local ornithologists had been content to describe only such species as were found in the country of which they were treating; but it is a distinction of the present edition of "Yarrell" that allied species are also generally noticed, and the marks by which they may be distinguished are given. Consequently we may expect to find future observers from time to time recording the occurrence of birds in Great Britain which were not hitherto known to extend their range beyond the continental parts of Europe.

With regard to Prof. Newton's execution of his portion of the work, his fame is sufficient to warrant that it is of the highest quality. The only impression which a re-reading of it leaves is that it could only have been better if it had been all his own and none Yarrell's. The professor's account of the starling, the rook, or the cuckoo, to take some of the most obvious and popular examples, is enough to convince anybody of the excellence of his editorship.

Some readers will be surprised at the alterations which the advance of science has introduced. It was a bold step, to treat the carrion crow and the hooded crow as members of the same species, yet the identification is entirely justifiable. To those who know the two birds only from an ordinary English experience, they appear to belong to two valid species. But they interbreed so freely in countries, such as Siberia in particular, where they both abound, that every intermediate form between them can be met with, so that it is impossible to say, in a long series of examples, which belongs to the one form and which to the other. Herein we see a typical instance of the value of so-called "trinomialism," a practice which is now almost universal among American zoologists, and which is gradually winning favour in England, although it has not yet found its way into "Yarrell." Prof. Newton wrote his article so long ago (in 1878) that he leaves us in doubt as to how we should designate the fused species systematically. But a trinomialist would call the species *Corvus corone*; and, if he wanted to distinguish the black or carrion crow from the hooded or grey crow, he would name the former *Corvus corone corone*, and the latter *Corvus corone cornix*.

Whether it is an advantage for the jackdaw and the magpie to become respectively the daw and the pie is perhaps doubtful. It is seldom expedient to set aside familiar names of common objects for the sake of what may be greater literary correctness. But, however many of Prof. Newton's successors may follow him in these instances, it is to be hoped that none will be forced by his example to spell cuckoo "cuckow."

Mr. Saunders appears to have edited the two volumes allotted to him with his usual care. It is hardly just to compare the result of his three years of labour with Prof. Newton's eleven, especially since he seems to have had to write against time. The best part of his work, as might have been expected, is seen in his account of the gulls and terns, a group to which he has for years devoted especial attention. A little more care might have prevented such an eyesore as symphisis (vol. iii., p. 573), and two such misprints as occur on p. 34 of vol. iv.; and the brackets enclosing the name of Linnaeus after *Colymbus glacialis* (vol. iv., p. 96) are misleading. Perhaps too much credit is given to the late Messrs. Garrod and Forbes for the source of our knowledge of the anatomy of the *Tubinares*, valuable as their labours undoubtedly were in familiarising us with the work of their predecessors, and in materially adding to it. Most of Mr. Saunders's remarks about the derivations of the scientific names might have been omitted with advantage; partly because they are so incomplete, and often misleading by their brevity, and partly because they are plainly taken at random from the notes supplied by the present reviewer to the so-called "Ibis" *List of British Birds* published by the British Ornithologists' Union in 1883, where no difficulty was left without an attempt to unravel it. With Greek accents he makes sad havoc; witness φάλᾶρις (vol. iii., p. 310). Possibly the last word has not been said about the etymology of sheldrake. With all deference to Prof. Skeat, the simple meaning of "shelled," viz., marked like tortoise-shell, seems to afford the real clue.

To Mr. Saunders attaches the credit of being the first ornithologist to introduce the Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) as a veritable British bird. But perhaps the evidence of its having occurred in Britain in a truly wild state, if applied in every instance, would swell the list of birds which ought to have been described in "Yarrell" to a greater extent than has been the case. Still, every species added to a fauna, even on the slenderest grounds, serves to stimulate future observers to confirm or to disprove the right of its inclusion. If it does nothing more, it familiarises naturalists with other species than those proper to their own country, and thereby possesses an educational value of more importance than any confusion it can cause the geographical zoologist.

The number of illustrations in "Yarrell" has always been a great commendation in the eyes of the public. In the first edition there were 510 wood-engravings, in the second 535, in the third 550, while in the fourth there are 564. Purveyors of old books and scarce editions are full of praise of these woodcuts—of much more, indeed, than they deserve. Compared with Bewick's, or with those by Wolf in the late Rev. C. A. Johns's *British Birds in their Haunts*, they are painfully wanting in artistic merit. It is, therefore, a pleasure to notice that those added to the present edition attain a far higher standard than presumably satisfied the last generation of ornithologists. A comparison, for instance, of Mr. E. Neale's lesser grey shrike (vol. i., p. 205), or of Mr. J. G. Keuleman's tawny pipit (vol. i., p. 592), with the curiously distorted red-footed falcon (vol. i., p. 69), or the preternatural robin (vol. i., p. 305), will substantiate this estimate. These are perhaps extreme examples to cite, since they are so plainly copied from badly stuffed specimens; but the artist who could pass them could have little idea of the look of a living bird. To those, however, whose eyes are not offended by an impossible background, or by the representation of a bad taxidermist's results, the mechanical skill in the delineation of the plumage and general appearance of most of the birds is enough to render these figures acceptable to the majority of readers. If seldom artistic, they are always truthful.

In the present uncertain state of classification, it is perhaps fortunate that no very great departure has been made from that adopted in the old editions. Many of the new names of groups of fairly differentiated types are unostentatiously introduced, but the fewest possible changes have been made. In his preface (p. vii.) Mr. Saunders justifies the alterations which he has made in this respect, and Prof. Newton has generally done so in the course of his portion of the work. The swifts are still kept next to the swallows, for instance, but the professor (vol. ii., 365) succinctly gives the reasons which have induced all modern systematists to refuse them any genetic affinity. Without the violent

introduction of recent changes in arrangement, indications are given throughout the work of the current ideas of those who have given the deepest attention to the difficult questions which surround the classification of the class *Aves* from an evolutionary point of view.

However advantageous it might have been to future ornithologists for the new "Yarrell" to have been entirely independent of the old, it must be candidly confessed that it would have been difficult for the editors, fettered as they have been, to do their work much better than they have done it.

HENRY T. WHARTON.

CORRESPONDENCE.

INTERCOURSE OF CHINA WITH EASTERN TURKESTAN.

Shanghai: June 18, 1885.

M. Terrien de la Couperie, in the ACADEMY of May 2, with a courtesy unfortunately too common among the students of Chinese, warns the scholars who venture to make quotations from my paper on the "Intercourse of China with Eastern Turkestan" that they expose themselves to repeat "egregious blunders." This is perhaps only a *façon de parler*, but hardly one to be held up to commendation. Passing this over, however, I may proceed to the particular error indicated. M. de la Couperie attacks a statement somewhat guardedly put forward that Tin yüt was "apparently the ancient Sthânesvara." I am still of the same opinion; but I am open to conviction, as although the evidence seemed to me sufficiently strong to lead to the conclusion, it still was only *primâ facie*, and hence my use of the term "apparently."

I am content to state the evidence. The Emperor, anxious to open communications with the Yueh ti lately settled in Bactria, ordered Chang k'ien to test the various roads leading westward; and four parties were sent from Kia ting fu in Szechuen. One, the southern by Mang in Yunnan, is interesting, as in a great measure that pursued by Margary with a similar object. The two central led through Tibet; and the northern by Kiung pih up the valley of the Min, with the probable intention of proceeding through Chaidam. The northern party was stopped by the Titso tribe. The southern came in contact with the K'ivenming, a truculent tribe dwelling about Sui, now the district of Li kiang fu in Yunnan, who stopped their advance, as not many years ago Cooper was stopped in the same locality. The party had, however, heard rumours of a country lying west where people rode on elephants. This Chang k'ien evidently associated with Shentuh (Sindhu, the Vedic Saptasindhava), where elephants were used in war, and which he presumed was "not far" from Szechuen. The distances puzzled him, so he states them in the vaguest terms. The Tahia lay some 12,000 *li* from China. The explorers had only advanced "one or two thousand *li*," so he exercises caution. Shentuh lay "it might be some thousand *li* S.E. of the Tahia" in Bactria (*Ta-hia tung-nan k'o sho t'sien li*); and Tin yüt was situated "it might be a thousand or more *li* west" of the place to which the expedition had penetrated (*k'i si k'o t'sien yü li*). If he could get to the one elephant-using country he might fairly expect little difficulty in gaining the other, as he had evidence that a left-handed trade was being carried on by both with the tribes of Szechuen. This is all the information he could get, and even this apparently at second-hand, for his explorers had been seized and killed near Li kiang.

Next, as to the philological question, Chang k'ien shows all through his work a wonderful consistency in his rendering of foreign names. It so happens that he has made use of the *tin* of Tin yüt in another instance where no doubt exists as to the identification. Yü tin is his rendering of the old name of Khotan, where the character for *tin* is identical. Now we have the direct statement of Yuen chwang that the name of that city was Kustana, and, to avoid all doubt, he tells us that the meaning is *mamelle de terre*. If *tin* then stands for "stan" in the one case we are justified in giving it a like power in the other. In M. de la Couperie's statement that in Han times *yüt* was pronounced "viet," I may state that I am quite prepared to agree. Yütnam was the ancient name for Annam, and is still pronounced in the vernacular Vietnam. *Yüt* occurs in many Chinese names, especially about the southern and south-western provinces, but in no one instance can it be rendered as he suggests by "trans." True, *yüt* means in ordinary language "to overpass," but in proper names it seems simply to mean "district." Yüt was the name of the kingdom formerly existing in South Cheh kiung; afterwards Yüt nam, "Yüt in the South," was the name by which the present Annam was known. Sui yüt in Kwanzsi was the district of the Sui tribe, Y'eno yüt or Momein of the T'engs or T'ams. It was the analogue and possibly the etymological representative of the Sanscrit *varsha*, "a country." Tin yüt would thus be the regular transliteration of a form Stan(a)varsha. Now, such a form for Sthâneswara is by no means impossible or improbable. Indian grammarians are divided as to its etymology: it is usually derived from Sthâna-Iswara, the abode of Iswara or Mahadeva; but this inversion was not considered satisfactory, so Sthânu-Iswara, a junction of both names of the divinity, was suggested (Cunningham's *Ancient Geography of India*, 331). If the proposed identification with Tin yüt be accepted, then we may find its origin in Sthânu-varsha, by metathesis Sthânu-shvara. Anyhow, Staneshwara was an ancient place. It was the original settlement of the Pândus, and was already losing its prestige in the time of Yuen chwang when it had become tributary to Kanoj.

T'eng yueh, on the contrary, has never been other than a comparatively insignificant frontier town, and, most assuredly, could never have been described as an elephant-riding country, *Shing-siang kuoh*, for two good reasons: first, it was not a *kuoh* at all and, secondly, elephants are never used there.

I will leave it, therefore, to the readers of the ACADEMY to decide—if either M. de la Couperie or myself have been guilty of egregious blunders—which is the erring party.

I am sorry M. de la Couperie should be so engaged that he has no time to proceed further with his strictures; but I may be permitted to make some remarks on two statements of his. First, Chang k'ien, I may inform him, was very particular in calling Scinde Shentuh. It was under "Buddhist" influence, most probably, that his commentators imagined that *Shen* should be pronounced "K'ien." They mistook Scinde for Gândhâva.

Further, I should like to know on what evidence he shows that the characters on the seal found at Harapa were in Shuh writing.

THOS. W. KINGSMILL.

P.S.—I would like to take this opportunity of indicating an error in my paper which has been pointed out by Mr. E. H. Parker. The characters for Kiao-ts'ze and Aujen are not proper names. The sentence should read: "Westward of Yuan, all the states, on account of their distance, were haughty and indifferent, and not to be moved by compulsion; all that could be done was to attach them by means of politeness." T. W. K.

THE HISTORY OF SHÁH ISMÁ'ÍL I. AND SHÁH TAHMÁSP I.

Tehrán: July 16, 1885.

The *Athenaeum* of May 31, 1884, in a notice of some "Recent Acquisitions of the British Museum" mentions a MS. "history of Persia, and especially of Khorásán, under Shah Isma'il and Shah Tahmasp, composed by an unknown writer in A.H. 957." This MS. appears to be identical with one now before me, in which, however, the author calls himself in the preface "Mahmúd Khánd Amír," adding that he began it, through the patronage of the Válí of Herát Muhammed Khán, in A.H. 955. In the Khatimah to the "Ranzat us Safaviyah"—a history of the Safavis from their origin to Sháh 'Abbáss II., by Mírzá Beg B Hasan Hasaní, composed in A.H. 1023—will be found a further note on this author; Mírzá Beg informing us that he is indebted for his own work to, among others, the "history of Sháh Ismá'íl and Sháh Tahmásp" by Khawjeh Mahmúd who called himself a son of the author of the Habíb us Siyar. He adds that this work is dedicated to Muhammed Khán Aúghlí Taklú, the same who was appointed deputy of Sultán Muhammed Mírzá Safaví, when that Prince, in A.H. 943, was given the government of Herát. Khwajeh Mahmúd's transcriber, in the colophon to my MS., calls him: "Amír Mahmúd B Amír h wánd Mir ul Muvarikh."

SIDNEY J. A. CHURCHILL.

SCIENCE NOTES.

THE original MS. of the lectures delivered by William Harvey before the Royal College of Physicians in 1616 and the following years, which were discovered a few years ago in the British Museum, are to be published in a facsimile reproduction, together with an interleaved transcript made by Mr. J. S. Scott, of the MSS. department of the Museum. The work will be issued by Messrs. Churchill, probably in the spring of next year.

AT the meeting of the French Association for the Advancement of Science, held during the past week at Grenoble, M. de Mortillet read a paper on "Man in the Tertiary Epoch." The evidence of chipped flints, &c., that he adduced from the lower tertiary strata at Thenay, and from the upper tertiary strata at Otta, in Portugal, and Puy Courny, Cantal, in favour of the existence of an "antropopethique" or apeman appears to have convinced the majority of savants present, though no trace of a skeleton is yet forthcoming.

AT the meeting of Anthropologists now being held at Karlsruhe, Prof. Virchow has communicated the final results of the statistical observations made in all German schools as to the colour of hair and eyes. These results are exhibited in maps which have been most carefully prepared, and give a clear view of the distribution of the blonde, black, and brunette varieties of the German Empire.

PHILOLOGY NOTES.

IN the last two numbers of Trübner's *Literary Record*, a beginning is made of an "Index to Articles relating to Oriental Subjects in Current Periodical Literature"—a work which has long been wanted by scholars, but which it is nobody's business in particular to supply. The list of periodicals is limited to those published in England, America, India, and China; but even so there are some notable omissions. Both the *Times* and *Nature*, as well as the *Journal* of the Bengal branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, ought certainly to be added to the list.

PROF. GEORG CURTIUS, the veteran scholar

and philologist, died at Leipzig on August 12, in the sixty-sixth year of his age. Next week we hope to give some notice of his life and work.

FINE ART.

GREAT SALE of PICTURES, at reduced prices (Engravings, Chromos, and Oleographs), handsomely framed. Everyone about to purchase pictures should pay a visit. Very suitable for wedding and Christmas presents.—GEO. REES, 115, Strand, near Waterloo-bridge.

The Prehistoric Stone Monuments of the British Isles.—Cornwall. By the Rev. W. C. Lukis. (Society of Antiquaries.)

THE study of British prehistoric monuments has been for centuries one of the favourite fields in which the framers of wild hypotheses have been accustomed to disport themselves. Perhaps there is scarcely any other subject with regard to which such enormous fabrics of speculation have been erected on such utterly unsubstantial foundations. Of late years sounder methods of investigation have begun to be employed, although books on the subject are still occasionally published which repeat the old fancies about druidical sacrifices, sun and serpent worship, British Buddhism, the Persian Mithra, and the Phoenician Baal. It cannot be said, however, that the positive results of recent research, except so far as relates to the "barrows," are as yet very abundant or very interesting. Most of the problems which so many generations of antiquaries have eagerly discussed with regard to the principles of construction and the original purpose of our rude stone monuments are still unsolved; and the opinion of those who are best qualified to judge is that the time is not yet ripe for their solution. It is useless to speculate on such questions until we are in possession of accurate drawings, plans, and measurements, if not of the whole of these relics of an unknown past, at any rate of some considerable proportion of them. When such a body of trustworthy materials is before the world it will be time to construct theories. For the present, "what we want is facts."

It has long been generally understood that the Society of Antiquaries had undertaken to meet the demand for substantial data for the study of our ancient stone monuments, and that a large number of drawings and measurements, both of British and continental remains, were already in the possession of the society, and were intended some day to be published. That learned body, however, is not remarkable for the promptitude of its movements, and it has been feared by many persons interested in the subject that it would be long before any portion of this collection would see the light. Happily this anticipation has been falsified by the appearance of the volume devoted to the Cornish remains, and it is to be hoped that the succeeding volumes will follow as rapidly as is consistent with the satisfactory execution of the work. The society has decided to issue alternately the portions of the collection dealing with British monuments and those dealing with the similar monuments on the Continent. This course has obvious advantages, as a comparison with foreign examples may be expected to throw valuable light on the prehistoric remains of our own country. It would be a pity, however, if the society should consider it necessary to adhere rigidly to the plan they have laid down at the expense of seriously delaying the publication of the British portion of the work, which, after all, is the part most urgently needed. There is special appropriateness in commencing the series with the monuments of Cornwall, inasmuch as both geographical and historical considerations would lead us to anticipate good results from a comparison of them with the Breton remains, which, it may reasonably be supposed, will form the subject of the second volume.

The interest of the work resides, of course, principally in the forty folio plates, the few pages of letterpress being strictly confined to the briefest possible explanations of the drawings. The enormous amount of labour which Mr. Lukis has expended on the preparation of the book may be estimated from the fact that every single stone, whether standing apart or forming part of a circle, is represented both in elevation and ground plan, all the dimensions being given in feet and inches. In addition, there are plans of the circles, and horizontal and vertical sections of the barrows and mound-dwellings, not only drawn to scale, but furnished with statements of the measurements; and the compass-bearings and the slope of the ground are in all cases accurately indicated. The drawings are, of course, intended for instruction, and not for pictorial effect, and are in simple outline, the elevations being for distinction coloured brown and the ground plans and sections pink.

The stone circles figured in the volume are eleven in number, and vary from a diameter of 36½ feet to one of 148½ feet. Among the most remarkable monuments of this class are those known as "The Hurlers," near Liskeard, where we have three circles in a straight line, which are over a hundred feet in average diameter, and are separated from each other by intervals of about ninety feet. The alignment of the centres is so nearly exact that it is evident that this feature was not only intentional, but was regarded as important enough to justify a considerable expenditure of pains in securing accuracy. The line connecting the centres is moreover very nearly due north and south, and the two outer circles, which are smaller than the middle one, were clearly meant to be of the same size. These facts, which are not without parallels in other districts, will have to be satisfactorily explained before any theory respecting the purpose of these erections can be regarded as established. Another interesting question is the design of the singular arrangement found in "The Stripple Stones," Blisland, where a stone circle was fortified by a circular ditch, outside which is a bank, also circular, but having three demilunar recesses in different parts of the circumference. The Duloe circle, from its altogether exceptional smallness (36½ feet) is regarded by Mr. Lukis as being "probably the enclosing ring of a cairn that has been entirely removed."

The Cornish monoliths are of no particular interest, with the exception of the well-known stone at Madron bearing the Latin inscription RIALOBRAN CVNOVAL FIL. There is in Cornwall only one example of the lines of pillars which are frequently found elsewhere. This is "The Nine Maidens," St. Columb (not to be confounded with the monument at Wendron bearing the same name). The line, which is perfectly straight, now contains eight stones, and is 262 feet in length; but Mr. Lukis thinks it may originally have extended to another monolith which stands 800 yards further to the north. It seems evident that such lines were intended as boundary marks, while the isolated pillars were doubtless designed for some commemorative purpose—in most cases probably sepulchral. Much more noteworthy are the many granite slabs pierced with circular holes, varying from three to twenty-one inches in diameter. A hypothesis which still finds advocates is that these "holed stones" have some sort of connexion with sun-worship; but Mr. Lukis points out that in the most remarkable example the aperture is so much larger on the eastern than on the western side that it must have been intended to be used from the east, so that the actor in the supposed religious ceremony would be turning his back on the rising sun. At Tregaseal there are five such stones arranged in a straight line. The holes are at the same height from the ground, and are nearly of the same size. It may be worth while to notice that the slabs are not so placed as to give a continuous view through the holes, but that the apertures are parallel, looking north and south.

The sepulchral barrows of Cornwall are not very numerous or of great size, and the relics found in them are scanty and of little interest compared with those obtained from the Yorkshire barrows explored by Canon Greenwell and Mr. Atkinson. Several of the Cornish mounds are, however, remarkable for the elaborate masonry employed in their construction, and the stone "cists" which they contain are of extraordinary size. Perhaps the most interesting of all the remains described in the volume is the subterranean dwelling known as Chapel Euny Cave, Sancreed. It consists of a tunnel about seventy feet long and seven feet wide, walled and roofed in stone, with two lateral offshoots, one of them opening into a circular chamber fourteen feet wide, which had originally a domed roof. The objects found in the cave indicate a comparatively recent period, among them being "an iron spear-head, iron crook and rivet [trivet?], stone spindle-whorl, black pottery in fragments, animal bones, a piece of red ware resembling Samian, and fused tin." There are several other specimens of ancient dwellings figured in the book, the most remarkable being that at Chysoister, which consists of seven chambers of different shapes and sizes, communicating directly or through passages with a large central court.

Mr. Lukis's unrivalled acquaintance with the facts gives peculiar weight to any opinions expressed by him with regard to the questions in dispute among British antiquaries. There are, however, only one or two instances in which he has departed from his customary reticence on such points, and even in these cases his own views are rather implied than distinctly stated. It may be gathered that Mr. Lukis is opposed to the opinion that any of the monuments known as cromlechs were intended to be exposed to view. Respecting the original purpose of the stone circles, after referring to their frequent collocation in twos and threes, he writes as follows:

"If they were temples, as supposed by some

antiquaries, and not sepulchral enclosures or protection walls for herds of cattle as supposed by others, why should the worshippers have been divided into so many different congregations? The largest of the three circles of Stanton Drew, Somersetshire, was sufficiently capacious to accommodate all the worshippers of the district."

Mr. Lukis does not refer to the theory, which has received respectable support, that the circles were designed as places of deliberative assembly.

In addition to the descriptive articles referring to the several plates, Mr. Lukis has furnished a tabular arrangement of the most important particulars respecting the situation and characteristic features of each monument, with brief notices of the history of its exploration, and—what is especially valuable—a list of the books and articles in which it has been described. Mr. Borlase's *Naenia Cornubiae* is, however, omitted in the mention of the works which refer to the Chapel Euny Cave. There is also a map of the monuments of the Land's End district, containing two or three blunders of the engraver, which are almost the only faults discoverable in this admirable work. If the Society of Antiquaries is able to carry through its great undertaking in the same thorough manner in which it has been begun, the study of our prehistoric monuments will at last have been placed upon a firm scientific basis. Dreamers will still continue to dream, and doubtless some questions will remain for ever unsolved; but it is not too much to hope that, when the whole evidence has been rendered accessible, the points of disagreement among sober investigators will become few and unimportant.

HENRY BRADLEY.

THE NEWCASTLE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

THE Newcastle Society of Antiquaries had a field day on August 14, when Rock, Embleton, Dunstanborough Castle, Craster, and Long Houghton were visited. At Rock, the interest centres in the little Norman church (with its curious monument to Colonel Salkeld, a royalist officer) and the Hall. In the latter, which was rebuilt in the early part of the present century, portions of two older buildings are incorporated—one, the "pele" tower, and, perhaps, an oratory of an early date; the other, the Jacobean mansion, held successively by the Lawsons and Salkelds, and now by Mr. C. B. Bosanquet. At Embleton, as elsewhere in the county, the pele tower, remodelled in the sixteenth century, forms part of the Vicarage house. The church has some fine Norman work, and the modern chancel contains excellent specimens of stained glass by Mr. Kempe. Of course, the great feature of the excursion was the visit paid to Dunstanborough Castle, one of the grandest and most picturesque ruins on the Northumbrian coast. Buck's view is altogether untrustworthy, and Turner's well-known picture does better justice to the scenery than to the castle, which Mr. Bates had some difficulty in accurately describing. Conjecture and inference had to supply the want of reliable data. Archaeologists would do well to diverge from the beaten track, and, quitting the North Eastern Railway at Little Mill Station, inspect for themselves these little visited ruins which overlook the sea from the summit of a basaltic cliff. The castle seems to have been built in the thirteenth, or early part of the fourteenth, century; to have suffered much in the Wars of the Roses; to have been patched up in the time of Elizabeth only to fall soon afterwards into a state of decay from which it has never been rescued. The gateway, Queen Margaret's Tower above the sea, and the Lilburne Tower on the west, are the most conspicuous features. Within a short walk from the castle is a curious mediaeval building known as Dunstan Hall, or, from its occupant in the seventeenth century, Proctor's Steads. Its claim to be recognised as the birthplace of Duns Scotus is scarcely worth examining; but it possesses some peculiar features worthy of more lengthened examination than the antiquaries could bestow upon it. On the west side is a rather decayed pele tower, and attached to it a Jacobean mansion of no particular beauty. At the east end, however, of the latter are indications of much earlier work; and two lancet-windows or slits in the eastern external wall have been lately brought to light. Much discussion took place upon their significance. Mr. Wilson maintained that much of the stone work had been brought from Dunstanborough Castle, and that these particular windows had been transferred thence to their present position. The improbability of such careful work having been executed for little or no purpose was pointed out by Mr. Bates, who also stated that an Edwardean fireplace attached to the same wall could be seen and was a further indication of its early construction. At Craster (*olim* Crancester)—still the seat of a family of that ilk—the old pele tower is embedded in a modern residence, the vaulted basement being used as a cellar. The church at Long Houghton, recently restored, is very characteristic. A low, massive tower is attached to a really noble building, in which the chancel arch is certainly of early Norman construction. Mr. Wilson, differing from Mr. Longstaffe, held that in it and also in the tower there are distinct marks of Saxon work; but the evidence did not carry conviction to his hearers' minds.

C. J. R.

ART IN LOUVAIN.

Louvain: August 1, 1885.

THE worthies of Louvain are not forgotten in this bigoted and sleepy little city, once so celebrated for art and learning. M. Hennebicq, director of the Academy of Mons, is now occupied in painting a series of decorative panels for the Chamber of Civil Marriage, a large hall on the first floor of the beautiful Hôtel de Ville. This hall has been recently restored in a manner worthy of the magnificent exterior of what is, perhaps, the most perfect and the richest specimen of florid Gothic architecture in Belgium. At one end is a new fireplace and high mantel, with a door on either hand leading into a small ante-chamber, where is a very beautiful fifteenth-century wooden ceiling, the drops on which are ornamented with bosses rudely carved in high relief with scenes from the Passion. At the other end is M. Hennebicq's fine composition of some seven life-size figures, representing Antonia van Rosmael defending the Catholic faith, and expounding the Bible to ministers of the Reformed Religion. The noble widow stands with triumphant finger on the open book, faced by approving priests seated at the table, and behind them the Protestants, who cover their faces in confusion, or gaze speechless and confounded at the fair controversialist. M. Hennebicq is a fine draughtsman and colourist, but the picture is perhaps rather too modern in sentiment. The seven panels already completed between the narrow windows on either side of the long hall are charming in conception and colour, and of excellent decorative effect: Quintyn Massys, as a slender youth in leather apron, hammer in hand, before love (according to tradition) had made an Apelles of him; Dirk Bouts, of Haarlem, whose best work was done at Louvain—a tall, serious, almost stern figure in straight gown and high red cap, just as he stands as servant at the *buffet* in his celebrated "Last Supper" that hangs in St. Peter's on the other side of the Grand Place; Layens, the architect of St. Peter's Church; Mercador and Justus Lipsius, the learned professor of the university in the sixteenth century; Beyaert, the sculptor, chisel in hand; and a fair damsel who illuminated manuscripts some hundred years earlier.

ANNIE EVANS.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GREEK INSCRIPTION FROM EGYPT.

'Queen's College,'Oxford: Aug. 7, 1885.

A Greek inscription I copied in Egypt last winter was published in the ACADEMY of February 21. It consists of a set of elegiacs engraved on a stone, brought from the ruins of Antinoê, which has been long lying close to a deserted pumping-engine near Mellawî on the western bank of the Nile. The stone has the shape of a Roman altar, but is adorned with two martyrs' palm-branches and a Maltese cross placed within a wreath. The letters are tall, closely packed together, and lightly engraved in the calcareous stone, which makes it difficult to read them. They are similar in form to those of the Brough inscription, and belong to a comparatively late period. As my absence from England prevented me from correcting the proof of the inscription, I now give a transcription of it, supplying missing letters, in the hope that one of the readers of the ACADEMY may be able to identify "the father-in-law Theodôros" mentioned in it. The verses are divided by two slanting lines, which I represent here by an obelus:

Ὁ κλυτὸς ὁ χρύσειος Ερ(κου ῥ)*. . .
ὁ πρόμος οὗτος † ἐν χρυσέῃ στε(φάνῃ)
πουλύ τι παμφανόων † τοῦ(το)
γὰρ ἐκ βασιλῆος ἔχει γέρας ἄξιο(ν)
ἔργων † ὅς Θήβῃ μὲν ἐ(κ)ὰς αὐτ(ὸς)
ἔπεμψε τρόμον † τὸν δ' ἑκυρὸ(ν)
Θεόδωρον ἀριζήλης ἐπ' ἀπήνη(ς)
+ Ρώμης ὁπλοτέρης θήκατο κηδεμόνα.

The Maltese cross and palm-branches come below the last line. I suppose the "younger Rome" means Constantinople.

A. H. SAYCE.

THE SITE OF FERENTUM (OR FORENTUM.)

Combe Vicarage, near Woodstock: Aug. 15, 1885.

In Dr. W. Smith's *Dictionary of Greek and Roman Geography*, vol. ii. (1854), Mr. E. H. Bunbury writes thus as to the site of Ferentum or Forentum, a town of Apulia, about ten miles south of Venusia:

"It is still called Forenza; but from the expressions of Horace ("arvum pingue humilis Forenti," *Carm.*, III., iv. 16), to whom it was familiar from its proximity to Venusia, the ancient town appears to have been situated in a valley, while the modern one stands on the summit of a hill."

On June 1 Cav. Avv. Alessandro Bozza (formerly in the Italian Ministry)—in whose house at Barile, a town just below Monte Vulture (the ancient Vultur), and between it and Venosa (the ancient Venusia), I had, by his kind invitation, stayed since the evening of May 30—took me to Venosa, and to its old castle, which belongs to a brother of my Barile host. From the top of the castle I had a fine view, comprising Monte Vulture (which I had ascended on May 30), Forenza, and Acerenza

* The traces that remain of these three letters look like κου. in which case the name would be Ἑρκούλιος. The third letter may, however, be μ.

(the ancient Acherontia). While Acerenza, situated "like an eagle's nest" (to use the expression of Macaulay) on its lofty island-like rock, is admirably described, with his "curiosa felicitas," by Horace ("celsae nidum Acherontiae," *loc. cit.*), Forenza is not "on the summit of a hill," but on a plain lying at the foot of a high ridge. In comparison with Acherontia, Ferentum (or Forentum), if on the site of Forenza, might be spoken of as "humile." Mr. Bunbury goes on thus:

"According to local writers, some remains of the ancient Ferentum may be found in a small plain two miles nearer Venosa (Romanelli, vol. ii., p. 236)."

The following is the passage referred to:

"Secondo la riportata topografia Oraziana, nella quale Ferentum è riposta presso Bantia ed Acheruntia, non possiam dubitare, che sia l'odierna Forenza, circa otto miglia al mezzogiorno di Venosa. Essa pero era situata alquanto più lontana nel mezzo di una pianura verso Venosa, dove se ne ravvisano i segni, e non gia sull' erto colle, dove oggi s' alza Forenza, da non combinare colla descrizione di Orazio, da cui si appellò *umile*, e bassa per la sua situazione" (*Antica Topografia Istorica del Regno di Napoli* dell' Abate Domenico Romanelli, Prefetto de la Bibliotheca de' Ministeri e Sociodi varie Accademie, Parte Seconda. Napoli, 1818).

Orelli, who substituted the "Forentum" of Livy (ix. 16, 20) and Pliny (iii. 11) for the "Ferentum" of Horace — Diodorus Siculus having Φερέντη—writes thus:

"Forentum, hodie, ut videtur, vicus dictus *i Castellani* sive *i Castelli*, tria vel quattuor mill. pass. ab hodierna *Forenza*."

Perhaps Ferentum (or Forentum) was originally on the site of the small place spoken of by Orelli.

The village in which I live seems to have been originally in the valley below it. There the church stood, in a field now called Bury Field, in which are traces of the old churchyard; it was rebuilt of the same materials on the high ground above (see Kennett's *Parochial Antiquities*, vol. i., p. 149). In an old map—which is at Blenheim Palace, and which I have seen—the village runs up from the old site of the church, along a lane that now contains but two houses close together, while at some distance two more houses act as another link between the original and the present site of Combe. J. Hoskyns-Abrahall.

NOTES ON ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY.

The jury in the department of fine art at the Antwerp Exhibition have made the following awards to Englishmen: Sir Frederic Leighton, a medal of honour; Mr. Watts, a medal of the first class; Mr. P. R. Morris and Mr. H. Thornycroft, medals of the second class; Mr. H. Moore, an honourable mention. In addition, Mr. Alfred Stevens, of Paris, has received an extraordinary medal of honour, the highest distinction of all.

Some of the pictures brought from the Duke of Marlborough by the Prussian Government, will soon be exhibited at Berlin. Among them are the great "Bacchanal Procession," by Rubens; "The Andromeda" by the same artist — a picture which Rubens is said to have kept in his own room till his death: the so-called "Fornarina," and several others.

Two fine mosaic pavements of the Roman period have recently been discovered at Sainte-Colombe-les-Vienne, in the department of Isère. The pattern of one is a vase in the middle, with fishes at the corners; of the other an arrangement of birds in their natural colours, extremely well preserved.

The New York *Critic* for August 1 makes the following *amende* for a series of attacks which it has previously published against the Egypt Exploration Fund:

"The most recent document in the controversy as to the identification of the Biblical Pithom is a letter of Ebers in the London Academy of May 23. Ebers accepts without reserve, as do all other Egyptologists of note, Naville's discovery of the city at Tel el-Maskhutah, and devotes his letter chiefly to exposing the weakness and unfairness of a reviewer who, two or three months ago, took up the opposite side, with more zeal than discretion. It does not appear that the truth of Naville's identification can any longer be denied; and the matter is one of great and wide-reaching interest. If there can thus come to light a city possessing the name by which it is called in the Exodus, used for the purpose there stated, and even appearing to reflect in the style of its material (though upon this Naville lays no stress) the curious story of the Hebrews' difficulties with their brick-making—then a different kind and degree of authenticity is seen to belong to the stories of the early fate of the nation from what many men have of late been inclined to admit. It will take a long time to work these verifications into ancient Hebrew history, giving them their true place and value there; and as to how much is to be inferred from them, we must be content to wait for their full discussion by special scholars."

With reference to his letter on "Berna of Siena," in the Academy of August 8, Mr. Mercer writes that some thirty or forty photographs of Berna's frescoes may be obtained from Lombardi, at Siena—among them a beautiful group adoring the Madonna and Child, in the church of the "Servi," and several from San Gemignano.

Correction.—In the review of Gerspach's *L'Art de la Verrerie* in the Academy of August 8, *for* "Nisbett" (p. 91, col. 2., l. 14) *read* "Nesbitt"; *delete* the comma between Apsley and Pellatt (ll. 21-2); and *for* "Mostausser" (col. 3, l. 41) *read* "Mostansser."

THE STAGE.

Concerning the new piece which Mr. Wilson Barrett has had the courage to bring out in the very deadest week of the dead season, it seems sufficient to record that it was received with every manifestation of favour. "Hoodman Blind"—for so it is called, after a not very intelligible allusion in "Hamlet"—is a melodrama of the type we should call old-fashioned, if it were not that it has recently gained a fresh lease of popularity. Not a character, not a scene but is perfectly familiar to generations of playgoers. Nor can it be said that any particular ingenuity is shown in the development of the plot, or in the introduction of side issues. While it is unnecessary, therefore, to criticise the writing of the play, we would not deny that the representation of it was efficiently carried out. The beauty of some of the later scenes contributed to the pleasurable impression left on the audience. But something also is due to the energetic acting of Mr. Wilson Barrett himself, to the genial performance of his brother, Mr. George Barrett, and to the graceful personality of Miss Eastlake. The piece would probably have lost more than it would have gained if the parts had not been specially written for the company that acted it.

MUSIC.

GOUNOD'S "MORS ET VITA."

As the number of novelties to be produced next week at the Birmingham festival is unusually great, and as there will therefore be plenty to write about, we propose to say a word or two in advance concerning Gounod's new trilogy, "Mors et Vita." In a short preface the composer explains the apparently illogical title. In the order of temporal things life precedes death, but in the order of eternal things death precedes life. The work is divided into three parts: the first, entitled "Mors," contains a prologue, followed by an elaborate setting of the "Requiem Mass." The second part, entitled "Judicium," opens with an instrumental prelude intended to depict the sleep of the dead. This is followed by another instrumental movement, in which is heard the sound of the last trump. We then have the judgment first of the elect, and then of the rejected. In the third part ("Vita") we pass from those solemn scenes to the bright vision of the heavenly Jerusalem.

As in the "Redemption," so here, the composer has made use of representative themes. The principal one consists of four notes presenting a sequence of three major seconds. It is intended to express "the terror inspired by the sense of the inflexibility of Justice." It is first heard in the opening chorus, "Horrendum est incidere in manus Dei viventis," given out by voices and instruments *fortissimo*, in unison and octaves. Afterwards it is used with harmonies, and we hear it now in ascending, now in descending, form, and also combined with other melodies. In the opening chorus it is repeated three times in succession, and each time a semitone higher, after the manner of Berlioz in his famous "Judex crederis." We meet with it for the last time in the quartet of the third part, after the words "for the first things are passed away." Another short melodic form, of which much skilful use is made, is supposed to express sorrow and tears, and, by a slight transformation, also consolation and joy. And then there is the "call of the angelic trumpets." Mozart was content with a simple diatonic phrase, but Berlioz racked his brain to produce a novel and startling effect. Gounod pursues a middle course: he adopts an ordinary trumpet call, but imparts character to it by means of his favourite device—a chromatic interval.

From a purely musical point of view "Mors et Vita" is far more interesting than the "Redemption." In both works the composer has endeavoured to bring out and intensify the meaning of the words, but in the later one the technical workmanship is far more conspicuous. As in the "Redemption," so here, there are movements of studied brevity and simplicity, but there are others of large dimensions and elaborate developments. The "Redemption" was after the manner of a sacred drama: "Mors et Vita" is more like an ordinary mass or oratorio. The earlier work stood, as it were, alone; whereas, the later one, especially so far as its first and most important part is concerned, invites comparison with the Requiems of Mozart, Cherubini, and Berlioz. We are not yet in a position to speak of the effect produced by the music; but, if we are not very much mistaken, "Mors et Vita" will rank among Gounod's highest efforts. Chromatic chords and chromatic passing notes are frequent, and at times betray weakness rather than strength, but they are less extravagant and harsh than those employed in the "Redemption." The instrumental movements in the first work were, to our thinking, the weakest portions, but it was not surprising that the composer should fail in attempting tone pictures of "The Creation," the "Darkness at the Crucifixion," or even the "Apostles in Prayer." So in the new work, we feel, although unable to judge of the orchestral effects, that the Prelude, attempting to depict the sleep of the dead, the movements entitled "Tubae ad ultimum judicium," and "Resurrectio Mortuorum" will prove more or less disappointing. Such pieces express either too much or too little. J. S. Shedlock.

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